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THE TIMES
Monday

Cover up
The 30-year rule releases the records for 1953 - and a Churchill cover-up is revealed



Round Up
The Times anniversaries for 1984

Stepping up
First of a series on South Africa and its neighbours as the fighting steps up in Angola

Highland...
Searching for clan roots among the heather

Round up of the New Year weekend sport

Shultz and Gromyko will meet

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is to hold talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Stockholm on January 18. They will be in Stockholm for the opening of the 35-nation conference on European security and confidence-building measures.

It will be their first meeting since they held talks in Madrid in September, shortly after the shooting down of a Korean airliner by a Soviet fighter.

Rig talks offer

Britoil's chairman said he is willing to start talks on the cancelled oil rig order which could close British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard on the Lower Clyde

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CBI warning

Central and local government costs imposed on industry must be reduced to sustain the recovery through 1984, Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said

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WPC's funeral

The funeral of WPC Jane Arbuthnot, one of the six victims of the Harrods bomb, took place at St Luke's Church near Chelsea police station

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Is it safe to open it?

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mortgage boost

Four of the top five building societies expect to increase their mortgage lending by at least 20 per cent next year.

Family money, page 22

Galtieri in dock

Former President Galtieri of Argentina and his fellow junta members who launched the Falklands invasion have been indicted for murder and torture

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On its own

Ninety-five years of British protection over Brunei ends at midnight tonight, as the tiny enclave on Borneo's north coast assumes full independence

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Wider protest

Greenham Common peace women said they will extend their protest to other military bases, nuclear power plants and research stations, in the new year

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Letters: On Eagle Star, from Mr R C Howroyd; legal education, from his Hon Judge Head; coinage, from Mr A B Purbrick, and others

Leading article: The language of 1984

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Neil Kinnock sees the shadow of the Thought Police; Gavin Stamp on architects and planning controls; Julie Davidson's on-Scottish hogmanay

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Mr Maurice Bond, Miss Doris Chambers

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Thatcher promises a year of hope and liberty

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in a buoyant new year message to the Conservative Party yesterday, said that George Orwell was wrong and she promised that 1984 would be a year of hope and liberty.

In a statement reflecting considerable optimism about the future and clearly designed to stamp on suggestions that the Government has become accident-prone since its landslide general election victory, the Prime Minister declared: "Far from losing our way, we are just getting into our stride."

And she pledged that the Government's achievements since 1979 were "only the beginning" of what she called the revival of Britain under the Conservatives.

Mrs Thatcher's upbeat tone contrasted sharply with that of Mr Neil Kinnock, who in his first new year message to the Labour Party as leader, lamented the failure of the Government to arrest economic decline and the weakening of the health and welfare services, and accused the Government of a lack of will to face up to Britain's difficulties.

Mr Kinnock called on the

voters to use the local elections next May and the European elections the following month to combat the Government.

In her message Mrs Thatcher showed her sensitivity to charges that had publicly on several issues since the election, ranging from the choice of the Commons Speaker, the Parkinson affair, the deterioration in relations with the United States over Grenada and Lebanon and the dispute over energy prices are evidence that the Government is faltering.

She said that the Government had embarked on its second term "with the same enthusiasm and determination" with which it came to office. "Today, no less than when we first came into office, we believe what we say, we say what we believe, and have the courage to see it through."

Mrs Thatcher said that the prospect for jobs was becoming brighter and restated the Government's commitment to the goals it set itself in 1979: defence of the realm, support for the rule of law, greater freedom for the individual, protection for the vulnerable, honest money and prudent

finance, and an efficient and competitive economy.

Mr Kinnock said it was a tragedy that Britain could not look forward to firm prospects of economic recovery and social advance.

There was no will in the Government, he said. It never listened to the managers who wanted to invest and sell their companies out of slump; it could not put itself in the place of a single parent with a young family to bring up.

Mr Eric Heffer, chairman of the Labour Party, said of Mrs Thatcher's message: "She is uttering the very opposite of the truth. Under this Conservative Government liberties which have been there for generations are being taken away from local authorities."

"And the legislation the Government has lined up means the destruction of yet more of our liberties. This Government has authoritarian tendencies and if it continues in this direction we shall see our freedoms slowly but surely being destroyed."

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Leading article, page 11

Leadership rift on overtime pit ban

By Our Labour Reporter

The solidarity of miners' leaders over the present overtime ban was breached yesterday when a member of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive called for a pithead ballot over the action.

Mr Roy Otley, head of the pit craftsmen's power group, has written to Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the union, urging him to allow a national vote to prevent civil war in the NUM.

Mr Otley's call came after the 40-strong North Staffordshire miners' branch voted to defy the union's overtime ban. The branch said it would take 24-hour strike action if pickets prevented members doing their normal work from January 7.

Mr Otley, a respected right-winger, said: "I have canvassed the opinion of other power group members who are not defying the ban, and there is a large number in favour of a ballot."

The National Coal Board has said that the eight-week-old overtime ban, which was ordered by a national delegates' meeting, lost miners more than £25m in wages by Christmas; the equivalent of about £164 for every pitman. Those figures are strongly disputed by Mr Scargill.

Mr Stephen Higginson, the North Staffordshire miners' branch secretary, said he realized that his members' threatened strike would prevent other miners working and that it would be aimed at his own union. "But that is how strongly we feel."

Shamir battles for Cabinet unity in spending cuts crisis

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Amid the worst economic crisis experienced in Israel, Mr Yitshak Shamir's coalition Cabinet yesterday met in a six-hour emergency session to discuss a bitterly-contested austerity package which threatens to destroy its slender majority in the 120-seat Parliament.

The meeting took place against a background of unprecedented labour unrest caused by spending cuts, which have been introduced in the public sector. Many sections of the civil service have been subjected to severe disruptions and workers have taken to the streets shouting the slogan "bread and work" reminiscent of Israel in the 1950s.

Among the proposals made by Mr Yigal Cohen-Orad, the new Finance Minister, are a virtual 12-month freeze on the construction of new Jewish settlements, restrictions on free education, and an across the board cut of £690m.

Even as ministers were gathered for what was only the first of a grim number of meetings designed to reach an acceptable solution, more grim economic statistics were being released. These showed that Israel's balance of payment deficit has jumped to a record £3,517m, while the gross national product during 1983 stagnated, rising by less than 1 per cent.

The severity of the economic situation has been increased by an inflation rate of about 200 per cent and by spiralling foreign debts.

Israeli commentators are agreed that the attempt to find sufficient public savings to devise a budget for 1984-1985 with any chance of rescuing the ailing economy poses the Government with its severest test to date. A number of key coalition parties have threatened to desert Mr Shamir if their personal interests are not recognised and compensated for financially.

A full-scale political crisis was deferred yesterday by a decision agreed by all ministers to discuss principles only rather than specific cuts. The real crunch will come when individual ministers have to agree how much they are willing to give up.

Although yesterday's marathon session took place in a crisis atmosphere, Mr Shamir's chances of holding together his shaky coalition until the scheduled election date of 1985 were helped by a statement reportedly made by Mr Abba Eban, the chief foreign affairs spokesman of the main Labour opposition.

According to Israeli radio, Mr Eban said in an interview that his party would be prepared to open negotiations over all the Arab territory conquered by Israel in 1967 in its search for peace in the Middle East. Such a gesture was judged as likely to alienate certain of the smaller coalition parties which might have been tempted to team up with Labour by crossing the floor of the Knesset (Parliament) as a result of their economic grievances.

Spy couple sentencing today

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Sentence will be passed today in the Cape Supreme Court on Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, former commander of the South African naval dockyard at Simonstown and his wife, Ruth, who were convicted of high treason on Thursday on charges of spying for the Soviet Union.

Evidence in mitigation was heard yesterday, but like the rest of the trial, proceedings were all in camera. High treason carries a maximum penalty of death by hanging, but is rarely imposed in such cases.

Gerhardt was found to have been employed by the Russians from 1964 until his arrest in January of this year and to have transmitted military secrets to them. His wife was found guilty of assisting him, mainly as a

courier, from the early 1970s onwards.

The judge dismissed Gerhardt's claim to have been a double agent working for an unnamed power not hostile to South Africa and which had asked him to offer his services to the Russians to find out what their interests in South Africa were.

● LONDON: A former chief of the defence staff yesterday suggested that British naval officers who had contact with Gerhardt over the past 20 years should be vetted to check if any secrets were passed to him (John Witherow writes).

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton described it as a "sensible" if rather stable-door operation. I would be very

surprised if any British naval officer had given Gerhardt any sensitive information. But it is a possibility and foolish not to look into it."

The Government said yesterday it would refer the matter to the Security Commission. Gerhardt had access to classified information while he was training here, but it would be of little value now.

Lord Hill-Norton, speaking on BBC's *World at One*, ridiculed the suggestion that Gerhardt gave the Russians information about the task force during the Falklands conflict and said South Africa had not been privy to any British military secrets for 20 years.

Leaks feared, page 7

Herr Fleischauer's last will and tele-testament

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Near Herr Johann Fleischauer's head hovers an angel. On the desk in front of him are two silver candlesticks, a glass of sherry and an open bible, as silver-haired and solemn, he reads his will into the camera.

After his death, his heirs will gather round as he sends his last message to his loved ones on video tape.

Electronics have overtaken the German way of death, and a Hamburg video producer is cashing in on the vogue. For DM1,200 (£300) Herr Udo Schinowski will record you reading your own will with appropriate (and unsuitable) lectures for those grasping

relatives you choose to cut out - in the setting of your choice.

His catalogue offers four varieties: businesslike, at your desk with a telephone and calendar; solemn, beside a lectern with a vase and flowers; religious, standing near a cross or some cherubim; or relaxed, on your sitting room sofa. Or, if you prefer, for a little extra cost, you can be filmed in your office, on your yacht, in the churchyard or wherever you think appropriate.

Herr Fleischauer's will begins with the title, a notice saying "Tele-Testament" beside a urn, with a bible and kneeling figures in front and a view

through the window behind to the heavens. He then relates how he has led a God-fearing life, in harmony with his surroundings.

And now the moment the relations have been waiting for: To you, Cousin Gerda in Gröbenzell, the books, the pictures, the contents of the bank box and a life assurance of over DM10,000. But for the aunt there is bitter disappointment. Because she was so tactless and insensitive as to inquire recently about whom he would leave his wealth to, she has been cut out of the will.

"After long reflection I decided that the share which you hoped for your family - and

which with a little more friendliness you would have deserved - has been left to a children's home. Let that be a lesson to you."

Herr Schinowski started Tele-Testament with somewhat less than funeral solemnity as a result of a bet of a bottle of sparkling wine with an American journalist. In the first year about 60 people, from all walks of life, have recorded themselves for posterity.

The elderly usually take the standard 15 minute model - though the rich often like to go on for about 30 minutes. Some wishes are awkward: One man wanted to feature in hard pornography, which the

lawyers advised against. A sailor wanted to be surrounded by several scantily clad ladies, but there were problems finding anyone willing to appear in such diaphanous raiment. Another wanted a famous actor to read his poems.

The video has no legal force, and is no substitute for a written will. The master copy is deposited with the lawyer, and instructions can be left on viewing arrangements. Several testators have already passed into the great studio in the sky, and Herr Schinowski has had three or four telephone calls from relatives who found his productions "tasteful".

Air officers see their families at last



Air Lieutenant Weir, youngest of the released trio, being greeted at Heathrow by his sister Helen



Wing Commander Cox with his wife Sandy, and his daughter, Taryn, whom he saw for the first time yesterday



Air Lieutenant Lloyd, who described his torture in jail, being welcomed by his wife, Celia, and daughter, Tina

Lieutenant tells of nightmare months

By Rupert Morris

One of the three Zimbabwe Air Force officers, who flew to Britain yesterday after 17 months in jail, gave a graphic account of the torture he had suffered, and its effect on him.

Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, aged 32, who was welcomed at Heathrow by his wife and 18-month-old daughter - whom he hardly knew, having been imprisoned soon after she was born - shook as he recalled his ordeal.

"I suffered nightmares for a good five months," he said, "but I'm almost over it now."

He said he was tortured two weeks after being rearrested after his acquittal on charges of sabotage at the Zimbabwe Air Force base at Thornhill.

"I was connected to an electrical generator by electrodes placed all over my body, including the genitals. I suffered convulsions. The torture lasted about two and a half hours."

Lieutenant Lloyd said he did not blame the Zimbabwe Government for his torture, but believed it to be the result of someone being "over-enthusiastic". He was disappointed, however, that there had been no official expression of disapproval.

He and his two colleagues, Wing Commander John Cox, aged 36, and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, aged 24, who arrived at Heathrow on the same flight, face an urgent search for jobs.

All three, who hold dual British-Zimbabwean citizenship, said their lives in Zimbabwe had been destroyed. Wing Commander Cox, who was met by his father, the Rev William Cox, of St Mary's Church, Fishponds, Bristol, said he had gained strength from his faith, particularly during the long periods of solitary confinement.

"I was always a Christian, but I'm a stronger one now," he said. His 13-month-old daughter was born while he was in prison.

Both he and Air Lieutenant Weir said they were tortured, but declined to talk about it.

All three denied any involvement in the sabotage in August last year, when 13 combat aircraft were destroyed. They believe they were merely convenient scapegoats.

Four other white members of the Zimbabwe Air Force, also detained, acquitted, and rearrested, were released last autumn.

Life peerages for Mulley and Bottomley

By Staff Reporters

Two former Labour Cabinet ministers who failed to get on Mr Michael Foot's final list of recommendations for the dissolution honours list last July are made life peers in the new year awards which are announced today.

Mr Frederick Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence in the last Labour Government, a former party chairman and a member of Labour's national executive committee for 20 years, and Mr Arthur Bottomley, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs in the 1964 Labour Government and later Minister of Overseas Development, were recommended for the honours by the Prime Minister.

Both Mr Mulley, aged 65, and Mr Bottomley, aged 76, were in the former Labour leader's original proposals for some 27 Labour working peers in the dissolution honours but were taken out when Mrs Margaret Thatcher insisted that the Labour list be kept to single figures.

Two other life peerages are awarded today: Mr Alistair McAlpine, joint treasurer of the Conservative Party, and Sir Peter Henderson, the former Clerk of the Parliaments.

Alistair Burnet, presenter of Independent Television's *News at Ten* and a former editor of *The Economist* and the *Daily Express*, receives a knighthood. Among the other broadcasting awards are a CBE for Mr Aubrey Singer, managing director of BBC Television and an MBE for Chris Gittens, aged 81, who plays Walter Gable in *The Archers*, the long-running BBC Radio 4 serial.

Mr Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, and Mr Peter Middleton, Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, are appointed Knights Commanders of the Order of the Bath (KCBs).

Many who played a key role in Mrs Thatcher's election victory are honoured, including Mr Christopher Lawson, the



Alastair Burnet (left) and Chris Gittens

Conservative Party's marketing director, who is knighted.

Guinevere Lady Tilney, who worked for Mrs Thatcher's political office for several years in government and opposition, and became known in Whitehall as the "wardrobe mistress", advising the prime minister on dress style, is made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Mr Timothy Bevan, chairman of Barclays Bank, has been knighted, for his services to commerce and industry.

Among the sporting awards are a knighthood for Mr Arthur Gold, chairman of the Commonwealth Games Council for England and former secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board, an OBE for Bertie Mee, the former manager of Arsenal football club, and MBEs for Frederick Daly, who 37 years ago won the British Open Golf Championship, and Maurice Hope, the former world middleweight boxing champion.

Mr Neil Kinnock, has maintained the practice of recent Labour leaders of not making nominations for political awards. Full list, pages 4, 5



Frederick Mulley (left) and Timothy Bevan

BAT wins Eagle Star battle with £966m bid

By Andrew Cornelius

Britain's biggest takeover battle drew to a close yesterday when West German insurer, Allianz Versicherungs, decided to pull out of the bidding for Eagle Star after a record £966m competing bid came from BAT Industries.

Allianz agreed to sell its 30 per cent stake in Eagle Star, which is Britain's sixth largest insurance company, after discussions in Munich which were concluded late on Thursday. Allianz bought its shares in Eagle over two years and stands to make £163m profit on the deal.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, was delighted with the outcome and will

recommend the 700p per share offer from BAT to shareholders. His own stake in Eagle Star has risen in value from £2.7m to £3.7m since the fiercely contested bidding for the company began two months ago.

The takeover brings together BAT, Britain's third largest company, the Yardley cosmetics business and International Stores chains, the Eagle Star, which controls £3.5 billion of policyholders' money.

On the stockmarket, shares of Eagle Star fell from 714p to 692p on news of the deal, while BAT shares rose by 11p to close at 179p

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Britoil chief ready for eleventh-hour talks on fate of North Sea rig

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Sir Philip Shelbourne, chairman of Britoil, has said he is still willing to have discussions on the cancellation of its oil rig order, which threatens 4,500 jobs at Scott Lithgow on the Clyde.

The Britoil chairman, knighted in today's New Year Honours, said he is prepared to meet British Shipbuilders "even at this late date".

He has also said, however, that if British Shipbuilders contests Britoil's right to cancel the £86m rig order in court talks would become increasingly difficult.

Sir Philip was responding to Scottish church leaders who had asked the two sides to discuss the matter and had called for work to resume on the rig "for the sake of many

thousands of people in the west of Scotland".

Britoil cancelled the order last week. The rig was due for delivery in the spring but is estimated to be more than 500 days behind schedule, and British Shipbuilders has said it cannot afford penalty payments.

In his reply to the churches Sir Philip said: "We have been conscious throughout this year of the effect of cancellation of our order on hull 2002 and we have used every endeavour to introduce an element of realistic negotiations into this matter."

"It must be recognized that the delays that occurred in the delivery of this order were substantial, and called for a fundamental renegotiation of the contract terms."

"We made this very clear to British Shipbuilders, who always refused to discuss such a course of action, and accordingly we had no alternative to cancellation of the order."

British Shipbuilders has yet to reply officially but a spokesman for the churches said they hoped for an early response from the chairman, Mr Graham Day.

Scott Lithgow now has only one other order on its books - for a £60m oil exploration rig BP, which is also behind schedule.

British Shipbuilders faces a £19,000-a-day penalty payment on the BP order backdated to last February, and has asked the oil company for an extension of the contract to allow the rig to be completed early in March.

Talks to avert strike by shipbuilders adjourned

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Talks aimed at averting a national strike by 60,000 shipbuilding workers were adjourned yesterday until Tuesday, amid mounting pessimism that a solution could be achieved.

After a day of talks at the London offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) in which the unions and management met in separate discussions with Mr Dennis Boyd, chief conciliation officer, there was little sign of a breakthrough.

Representatives of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions expressed disappointment that Mr Graham Day, chairman of the state-owned British Shipbuilders, was not present at yesterday's meetings and does not plan to return from holiday in Canada in time for Tuesday's talks.

Mr Maurice Phelps, head of industrial relations at British Shipbuilders, said that management had put forward some proposals which he hoped would "assist the situation" and

prevent the stoppage, which is due to start next Friday. But he added that "it did not look very hopeful".

Mr Jim Murray, chairman of the unions' shipbuilding negotiating committee, said after the meeting that the position had not improved but added: "We would certainly not be coming back on Tuesday if we did not think there was a possibility of a solution."

The union delegation saw Mr Boyd first and told him that management's plans to change working practices, which is at the heart of the dispute, would be introduced too quickly and some of them were impracticable.

Mr Boyd was told that the company's offer of a £7 a week productivity deal was not the main point at issue.

The management team told Acas officers that the new working methods, which include the sweeping away of demarcation lines and a radical increase in flexibility, were essential and needed urgently.

Big BR pay-offs to cut staff

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

British Rail is offering attractive terms to persuade up to 9,000 staff to retire early.

The aim is to save about £90m a year on the wages bill to help to meet a £184m cut in government subsidy over the next two years announced by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, before Christmas.

Staff who agree to retire early are being offered full pension from 55 instead of 60 or 62 according to status and a lump sum substantially higher than the statutory minimum.

A £150-a-week driver with 25 years' service, for example, would receive about £6,500 and full pension on leaving at 55.

British Rail's corporate plan provides for a reduction in staff from 155,000 to 142,000 by 1986 and Mr Bob Reid, the new chairman, is pledged to deliver the plan's targets. The severance scheme is part of the plan.

Most people who had been offered the new retirement deal have accepted it, a spokesman said. Most of those affected are clerical and similar staff.

Maxwell sends out redundancy notices

By Kenneth Gosling

The seven-week dispute which has prevented 800,000 copies of the *Radio Times* reaching readers in London seemed likely last night to continue indefinitely as redundancy notices were issued to print workers at Park Royal in west London.

A spokesman for the British Printing and Communications Corporation, of which Mr Robert Maxwell is the chairman, said no agreement had been reached before Christmas on the installation of two presses costing £10m.

"It has been known all along," he said, "that if we did not get agreement we would have to issue redundancy notices."

"Sogot '82, the National Graphical Association, everyone has known this and has been expecting the notices, some of which are being posted off today."

Redundancy money is being paid at twice the usual rate, four weeks for every year of service instead of two.

A *Radio Times* spokesman said Sogot '82 had complied with a High Court injunction earlier this month, to lift its blocking of the printing and



Mr Maxwell: No accord on £10m machines

distribution of the magazine. "But we are back to square one with this dispute with Mr Maxwell," he said.

BPPC maintains that the Park Royal operation cannot be made viable without the machines being installed, and says all union branches had reached agreement except one London machine shop.

The Park Royal typesetting centre, employing 160 people, is not affected.



Camp comforts: Greenham Common protesters keeping warm round a fire yesterday (Photograph: John Voos).

Greenham women to tackle other bases

From David Cross, Greenham Common

The peace women of Greenham Common said yesterday they would be extending their protest movement to other military bases and installations in the new year.

At a press conference at their makeshift camp outside the north gate of the Berkshire air base, Miss Rebecca Johnson said that protesters would also visit nuclear power plants and chemical and biological research stations. They would be equipped with wire-cutters to take down perimeter fences.

The women said in a statement: "In 1984 we will continue to expose the lies behind all the military bases throughout Britain and to increase our links with women's struggle for nuclear disarmament and an end to oppression, prejudice, exploitation and violence in every country on earth."

The statement said that after two and a half years at Greenham the women believed they had achieved their aim of making cruise missiles at the base "politically and militarily inoperable at this time". (The Government has said that the first 16 missiles which arrived at Greenham last month would have "initial operating capability" by tonight.)

However, Miss Johnson said the Government had failed to show that the launchers and their missiles could be deployed beyond the confines of the base and had failed to maintain security at Greenham. Some women believed that the cruise warheads were no longer there.

The lack of security had

been clearly demonstrated earlier this week when three women spent about three hours in the air traffic control tower in the base without being detected, Miss Johnson said.

During their stay in the tower the women had found classified documents outlining procedures for landing an aircraft which had been contaminated by nuclear radiation, she said.

Miss Johnson added that the Greenham women questioned the right of any government to bring radioactive material into a populated area and to keep the information secret from people whose lives would be affected.

Women from one of the other peace camps at the base announced at the press conference that they would be giving half the donations they received from well-wishers to help less privileged women throughout the world.

The Greenham women will celebrate New Year's Day by releasing into the air hundreds of balloons tied with cut-out paper women and messages of peace.

● Mrs Jacquetta Hull, aged 25, of Brook Drive, Kennington, south London, who with several other demonstrators lay down in the road in Whitehall during the Remembrance Sunday ceremony on November 13, was conditionally discharged for three months at Highbury Magistrates' Court yesterday for using insulting behaviour.

Pershlings ready, page 7

Remand pledge honoured

With only a day to spare Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has honoured his pledge to remove all remand prisoners from police cells before the end of the year.

The Home Office said yesterday that all such prisoners had been transferred to jails. That means that in London there are now 629 remand prisoners at Brixton, 400 at Wormwood Scrubs and 181 at Pentonville.

Mr Brittan made his promise at the Conservative Party conference in October.

The total being held in police cells was 400 a day for most of the year but fell to 63 on Wednesday until there was none remaining by last night.

The move was possible because Wormwood Scrubs admitted prisoners on holding charges for the first time this month and because more places became available at Pentonville.

Pay law still unfair, TUC says

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Equal pay legislation, which comes into force today, will not end discrimination against women, according to the TUC.

The law will not observe an edict from the European Commission which urged the Government to bring the rules into line with the rest of Europe.

The European Court of Justice had criticized Britain because women here could not claim equal pay for work of equal value.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, has protested to Mr Alan Clark, Minister of State at the Department of Employment, that the legislation is inadequate.

The law will enable industrial

tribunals to hear equal value claims, but the TUC says it will also allow employers to claim justification for inequities because of "market forces".

For example, where a woman has a skill of "equal value" to a man's, an employer will be allowed to pay him more if his skill is in short supply.

"This would reinforce the segregation of women into low-paid jobs rather than end inequality," the TUC said.

Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, has said part of the new regulations was so complex that it was extremely difficult even for lawyers to understand.

The House of Lords passed an amendment to the Bill on

December 5 by 108 votes to 104, stating that the regulations neither complied with the European Commission directive nor reflected the European Court's decision.

Mr Murray expressed concern to Mr Clark that potential applicants in tribunal cases would be deterred because cost could be awarded against them.

Mr Murray expressed "a note of caution" over either party's ability to call on expert witnesses. Employers would have greater resources and would therefore, be more able to call on such evidence.

The TUC claims tribunal procedures will be made "more protracted and cumbersome".

Helicopter foils cash raid

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

A military helicopter crew defied shots from the ground as they foiled an armed robbery on the Irish border yesterday. The two-man crew was unhurt and the Westland Gazelle helicopter undamaged.

It was escorting a Securicor armoured van as it carried money from Newry to Crossmaglen, the centre of the IRA dominated South Armagh border zone of Northern Ireland.

Two miles from Crossmaglen, at Creggan Bridge, the helicopter crew saw the armoured van being rammed by a second vehicle and forced to halt.

As the pilot of the Gazelle then moved in for a closer look, radioing for army and RUC reinforcements as he did so, the raiders opened fire with rifles, without effect.

They abandoned their attempt to force the two Securicor guards to open the armoured van, and sped off in their own vehicle for the border, about four miles away.

Hebden holds chess lead

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent, Hastings

With a 20-move draw in round three against the Hungarian grandmaster, Csor, Mark Hebden, the Leicester player, maintained his lead with the excellent score of 2½ out of 3 in the Ace grandmaster tournament in Hastings.

Nigel Short won in good style against Sax, who always looked to be in trouble and resigned on the 37th move.

The Swedish grandmaster Karlsson won in good combative style against the Romanian grandmaster Suba, and the game between Ivanov and Alburt was adjourned.

Results in round three: Ivanov adjourned against Alburt, QB Benoni defence 42; Hebden ½, Flacnik ½; Sicilian defence 22; Karlsson 1, Suba 0, English border.

Mestel ½, Speelman ½, English opening 22; Short 1, Sax 0, Sicilian defence 37; Gurevich ½, Kudrin ½, Sicilian defence 14; Csor ½, Hebden ½, English opening 20.

Adjourned games results, round two: Flacnik ½, Ivanov ½; Sax 0, Mestel 1.

Remand for arms charge student

An Oxford University student was remanded in custody until January 6 at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with having a revolver and ammunition without fire-arms certificates and unlawfully possessing explosives.

Daniel Emile Singleton, aged 28, studying at St Catherine's College, Oxford, was arrested by anti-terrorist squad police at his home in Princess Crescent, Finsbury Park, on Wednesday.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$28; Belgium 8 fr 50; Canada \$27; Denmark 180; France 860 franc; Germany 80; Holland 100; Italy 100; Japan 100; Korea 100; Luxembourg 100; Netherlands 100; Norway 100; Portugal 100; Spain 100; Sweden 100; Switzerland 100; Taiwan 100; Thailand 100; United Kingdom 100; USA 100; West Germany 100; Yugoslavia 100.

Deathbed marriage by Melville

Mr Alan Melville the broadcaster who died on Christmas Eve aged 73 married his housekeeper three days earlier, it was disclosed yesterday.

In a ceremony at his bedside in the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, he married Mrs Midge Embury, a widow in her sixties and his companion for 25 years.

Mr Paul Vaughan, Mr Melville's agent, said yesterday: "Alan knew he was dying and it was his deepest wish to marry Midge. The marriage gave him joy and peace."

The marriage ceremony was attended by doctors, nurses, immediate family and friends and was conducted under special licence by the hospital chaplain. Mrs Melville had previously worked for Gilbert Harding, the broadcaster, who died in 1960.

Thief returned for other shoe

A pre-Christmas shoplifter, who found he had stolen two left shoes, was arrested the next day while taking a matching right shoe.

Hughie Clarke, aged 21, of Albert Road, Aston, Birmingham, was fined £50 yesterday for two thefts from the same store. He was arrested when staff recognized him from the previous day, Miss Francoise Snape, for the prosecution, told Birmingham magistrates.

Man to be freed after 26 years

Britain's second longest serving prisoner, Kenneth Barlow, aged 65, will be released on licence next week. He was jailed 26 years ago for the "perfect" murder of his wife by injecting her with insulin.

Barlow is in Leyhill open prison, near Bristol. Only John Straffen, the child killer, has been in prison longer.

Cast of 'Archers' at funeral

The funeral of Gwen Berryman, the actress who played Doris Archer for almost 30 years in the BBC radio serial *The Archers*, was attended yesterday in Torquay by members of the cast.

She died of cancer because of ill health in 1980 and died last week aged 77.

Crash landing

Mr Ian Rae, the pilot of a Cessna 310 light aircraft and his woman passenger escaped injury when it crashed at Glasgow airport last night.

Corrections

Roy Marsden, who plays Mr Chips in a new BBC television series, has his last major role in the Anglia series *Death of an Expert Witness* next. Mr Marsden, as stated yesterday, is not the television play in which Lord Ondaatje is to appear next. May, was written by Paul Austerlitz, not Jeffrey Archer, on whose short story, "Old Love", it is based.

Today's Taste of Utopia December 27th

Today's global taste of utopia brings the flavour of rising optimism and positivity in the peoples and governments of the diverse cultures and political systems of the world, including the U.S.A., the Soviet Union, India, China, Japan, Bangladesh, and East and West Germany.

● "We do not expect utopia, but I believe we are on the verge of new progress towards national reconciliation and the withdrawal of foreign forces," said President Reagan today speaking of the situation in Lebanon.

● Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon cooperate on proposal for peace in Lebanon.

● "Time upholds U.S. President Reagan and Soviet Andropov together as 'Men of the Year'."

● East Germany and Peoples' Republic of China sign agreement on scientific cooperation.

● East Germany dismantles automatic shooting devices along 48 kilometres of West German border.

● Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone pledges strong ties with U.S.A.

● South Korea welcomes new Japanese Cabinet.

● All industrial trade tariffs between European Economic Community and European Trade Association to disappear, making European free trade area the world's largest single market.

● "People have been working with greater desire. In general a change for the better in the national economy has begun to show - the most important thing now is not to lose the tempo and the generally positive intent to get things going," said Soviet Premier Andropov.

● Indian economy shows signs of improvement.

● Monsoon likely to boost food output in Tamil Nadu, India.

● Republic of Ireland's politicians unite in most comprehensive initiative for peace in Ulster since independence.

● Voting takes place in Bangladesh for the first time in seven years, laying the foundation for a return to democracy.

● President Marcos of the Philippines pardons 280 prisoners.

● Uruguay gives tremendous welcome to returning children of political prisoners.

● Experts see hope for saving endangered German forests.

● Preventative medicine boom in the U.S.A. This was the year people began to realize that their health is in their hands," says Director of the U.S. National Institute of Health.

● "Ayur Veda is the most natural system of medicine for prevention," says Dr. Vasudev Dwivedi, Minister of Health, World Government of the Age of Enlightenment.

These world events indicate that the "DYNAMIC, HARMONIOUS, INTEGRATION, 'NOURISHING', 'SELF-SUFFICIENCY', 'CREATIVITY', 'ORGANIC POWER', 'DYNAMISM', 'SUPPORT OF NATURE', 'FREEDOM', and 'BLISS', qualities of the unified field of all the laws of nature."

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Women	Were	Now
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SDP upset by Owen coalition warning

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen's new year message to the Social Democrats warning them to prepare to work in a coalition government has upset members of his party who want to see it working in closer harmony with the Liberals.

Dr Owen's statement is seen by many in the party as declaring his readiness in certain circumstances to come to an electoral arrangement with the Labour Party after the next election, if the Conservatives were to win the highest number of seats but fail to secure an outright majority.

Mr Neville Sandelson, who joined the SDP from Labour during the last Parliament but lost his seat at the election, said yesterday that "true Social Democrats" did not and would not contemplate a coalition with socialists merely to gain

office and a tiny foothold in the corridors of power. No amount of phoney cosmetics could close the true nature of Labour's ideology and ultimate aims.

"An electoral arrangement of that nature to defeat the present government would be a disaster for Britain and a betrayal of fundamental democratic principles. A Labour-led coalition government would be a sham."

Mr Sandelson said that in 1984 either the SDP and Liberals would close ranks or they would fall totally apart. Together they were a potential government "but divided they amount to an old maid's tea party."

He said that he had no doubt that many Social Democrats would share his misgivings as to the precise meanings of Dr Owen's message.

Police check guns in hunt for double killer

The police have interviewed about 30 men and checked several shotguns in the hunt for the killer of a couple shot dead near Manacpan on the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall.

Miss Rosalind Richards, aged 18, a part-time barmaid, and Mr Rodney Pellow, a divorced farmer aged 32 who lived in Coverack, near by, were each shot twice on Tuesday in her caravan.

Det Supt Geoff Warren, head of Cornwall CID, said: "Rosalind had numerous boyfriends. Inquiries into Miss Richards' social life have uncovered reports of late-night parties and marital infidelity."

More than 1,100 people in the area have shotgun licences.

Cell suicide despite warning to jail

A remand prisoner hanged himself with a sheet in his cell despite a police warning to prison authorities that he was suicidal, an inquest at Gloucester was told yesterday. (Our Gloucester correspondent writes.)

Detective Sergeant Michael Biddell said: "When he went to prison I completed a form to the authorities at the jail stating that he was mentally unstable, and in my view he would commit suicide."

Three days after Mr Peter Fussell's admission to the hospital wing at Gloucester prison, he was found hanging by a sheet tied to the window bars.

Nurse suspended after inquiry into night management at hospital

By Michael Horsnell

The senior night nursing officer at a hospital for the mentally handicapped, where a union official committed suicide this year, has been suspended after a six-month inquiry into night nursing management there.

Mr Amador Dell'Erario, aged 48, was relieved of his duties at the 900-patient Harpenden Hospital near Radlett, Hertfordshire, when the inquiry team reported a serious deficiency in the quality of management.

The report, endorsed by the North-West London Health Authority which ordered it, followed pressure from the health service union, Cosh, for an investigation into what happens at night at the hospital.

A night nurse, Mr Tony Joyce, aged 36, who was the hospital's Cosh branch secretary was found dead last February with his throat slashed outside a ward entrance. An electric carving knife was discovered near by.

An inquest decided Mr Joyce had taken his own life. In mid-December 1982 he had begun to take statements from night staff concerned about management practices at

the hospital at night. Then on New Year's Eve he was involved in an alleged skirmish with a senior member of the night nursing staff. As a result he faced a disciplinary hearing.

Mr Neil Goodwin, the health authority's deputy district administrator, said yesterday: "It is alleged that Mr Joyce was harassed for taking statements from staff over their dissatisfaction with the management."

"His tragic suicide heightened the antagonism of staff to management but it was one incident in a sequence of events which led the authority to hold an inquiry."

The report, by a four-man health authority team, said: "Staff we interviewed, including sisters, were of the opinion that there was an undue degree of familiarity in the relationships of the male nurse managers and certain female staff."

Mr Dell'Erario, an Italian, has been suspended on full pay pending further investigations by Mr Frank Powell, district

nursing officer, who will decide whether further disciplinary action is required.

Mr Mike Hills, Cosh branch secretary at Harpenden, wants his dismissal.

He said: "I would be negligent in my responsibilities to the union if I did not point out that I had on many occasions given warnings to nursing officers senior to Mr Dell'Erario of what was happening on nights."

The inquiry team, which decided some of the criticisms were anecdotal and hearsay, discovered that a staff member who could barely speak English was regularly left in charge of wards for up to three hours at night. It found faulty record-keeping, unfair overtime allocation and an unfair policy on holidays.

It also said: "Night nursing management did not appear to follow national and local guidelines regarding the recruitment, selection and appointment of staff."

The report cleared night sisters and said patients had not suffered.

Mr Dell'Erario, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, refused to comment.

Police say farewell to Harrods bomb WPC

By Tony Samstag

The Metropolitan Police paid their last respects yesterday to Miss Jane Philippa Arbuthnot, a Woman Police Constable 481B, attached to Chelsea Police Station.

WPC Arbuthnot, aged 22, was one of two police officers who died in the bomb explosion at Harrods on December 17. A third officer, Inspector Stephen Dodd, aged 34, died on Christmas Eve of injuries received in the blast and is to be buried next week.

The funeral congregation at St Luke's Church, round the corner from the police station in Lucan Place, was a still sea of black uniforms punctuated only by the white hats of Miss Arbuthnot's female colleagues.

In his address, the Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Kensington, spoke of a collective "debt of pride and gratitude to men and women who have counted the cost, and know the risks, and are still prepared to do what has to be done to protect the life and the security of their fellow citizens."

Sergeant Michael Thwaites' appreciation dwelt on WPC Arbuthnot's style, in particular her bicycle, which she had bought "to enable her, in her own words, to 'zap around the ground'."

Sir Kenneth Newman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was among the congregation. The pall-bearers, all close colleagues of the dead woman, included two who had been slightly injured in the Harrods explosion, Police Constables Mark Grover and Peter Weinberg. The anthem, Mendelssohn's "Benedictus Mortui" was sung by the Metropolitan Police choir.

Burial, in south London, was private. Police Constable Jon Gordon, the dog handler who lost a leg in the Harrods blast, may have to undergo another operation, it was announced yesterday.



Among the police guard of honour outside St Luke's Church, WPC Pamela White weeps for her murdered colleague (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Law firm collapses with debts of £400,000

From Our Correspondent

A firm of solicitors in Liverpool has collapsed with debts of £400,000 and is being investigated by police.

The Law Society launched its own inquiry into Neville, Piercy and Calvey six weeks ago and appointed other solicitors to take over the business. Meanwhile, the commercial branch of Merseyside Police has started an inquiry into complaints from five former clients.

Mr Anthony Ostrin, of Yaffa, Jackson and Ostrin, the solicitors dealing with outstanding business, claimed yesterday that banks in Liverpool were owed more than £300,000.

"The money due to the banks has disappeared over a period of 18 months," he said.

He said the Law Society had set up a compensation fund of £15,000 for former clients but more than £80,000 had already been claimed.

Earlier this year the senior partner, Mr Alex Calvey, was fined £225 with £25 costs for failing to provide a return for value-added tax.

The Law Society said yesterday that inquiries by its professional purposes committee would be completed by the end of January.

Mr Calvey, who represented the child killer Ronald Waldron at preliminary hearings earlier this year, declined to comment at home in St George's Road, Hightown.

Falklands eggs now penguins

Two penguin eggs from the Falklands have hatched out at the Birdland sanctuary in Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

Mr Richard Hill, whose late father bought the uninhabited Grand Jason and Steeple Jason islands in the Falklands 30 years ago, went there last month and brought back a batch.

Sony cuts disc price by £90

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The latest price war in the high street shops moved into a new phase yesterday with the Japanese consumer electronics manufacturer, Sony, cutting the price of its compact disc players only ten months after its British launch, in an attempt to match European competition.

By October only 10,000 of all types were sold, made largely by Sony, Philips and Marantz but, with more companies making the players, fierce competition, further price reductions and a boom in sales is expected.

Christmas sales are expected to show another 10,000 have been bought.

The Sony players have been reduced by £90 from the £549 launch price. Sony said: "In spite of the player's sophistication we cannot ignore our competitors' price reductions or the introduction of further compact disc players on the market from new manufacturers not involved in the development of the system."

Philips and Sony developed the technology, which uses a

laser as a stylus and reproduces high quality music from a disc the size of a beer mat. The disc plays for a hour on one side only.

There are about 500 titles available on compact disc which are pressed principally by Polygram in the factory in Hanover, West Germany, and CBS-Sony in Japan.

The players were launched in October last year in Japan and this year in most of Europe and the United States.

£1 note gets stay of execution

By Kenneth Gosling

The Prime Minister's remarks last week concerning the unpopularity of the £1 coin appear to have lengthened the timescale over which the coin will eventually replace the note.

Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has said in a letter to Mr Norman Atkinson, Labour MP for Tottenham, that the Government always intended to withdraw the note "once the public had got used to the coin."

The trouble with the £1 note, as Mr Stewart said in his letter, is that it gets stuffed into pockets and purses and into shop tills and not returned to banks when its short life is over, to be replaced by new ones.

But for the foreseeable future - and no one was prepared to say yesterday when the full changeover will occur - the public will continue to choose between the two and, as Mrs Margaret Thatcher said last week, generally prefer the note, however tatty and grubby it may become.

It will certainly be retained, as she also said. The question mark hangs over the word "indefinitely".



MP's flying tackle: Mr William Waldegrave, (above), Under-Secretary of State in the Department of the Environment, caught a thief in full flight during a Christmas shopping trip, in London.

The Tory MP for Bristol West saw a man leaving the Guy La Roche shop in Bond Street with stolen goods.

After crying "stop thief", Mr Waldegrave, aged 37, sprinted after him, and bought the shoplifter down with a rugby tackle. With the help of a passer-by he then retrieved the goods, worth £1,500.

But as he picked himself up the thief fled.

Mr Waldegrave, an occasional early-morning jogger, was presented by the shop with a gift for his wife Caroline.

Low-price Scotch under fire

By Philip Webster

A David and Goliath struggle to save the cheap Scotch dram has developed among whisky producers north of the border.

Three firms who have been selling special cheaper, if slightly weaker, brands are under threat from government regulations for which the powerful Scotch Whisky Association has been pressing.

Most whisky is sold at a strength of 40 per cent alcohol content down by 2.5 per cent the three companies, Glencairn, Grangemouth Bond and the Co-op, have been able to take advantage of a sharp drop in the duty payable and sell their bottles at about £1 less.

The Government has drawn up regulations, which were due to come into force on January 1, to prohibit the production of whisky below 40 per cent alcohol, but has decided to hold off to consider a mass of representations on the issue.

The Scotch Whisky Association argues that if the British regulations are changed other countries will follow suit and its exports will be protected. It says that whisky being produced in France and elsewhere at 25 or 30 per cent alcohol is ruining the good name of Scotch.

The three small producers, however, suspect that it is not the only reason, and have been arguing in talks with ministers that if the objective is to squeeze out the French the limit could be set at 37.5.

But the association is worried enough about the home competition to have done some calculations which it claims proves that the cheap dram is not the bargain it is made out to be.

It has averaged the prices of eight standard brands at £6.77 a bottle. It states that if High Commission, which now sells at £5.99 had been bottled at full strength in the standard size bottle its retail equivalent would be £6.85.

'Heart for Christmas' girl home for new year

Emma Pashley, aged 7, returned home yesterday after doctors declared themselves very pleased with her progress after a heart operation.

The girl from Cheadle, Greater Manchester, had the operation two weeks ago after writing to Santa Claus asking for a new heart for Christmas.

It had been discovered that her heart was on the wrong side of her body and the wrong way round with transposed arteries.

Yesterday her parents, Mr Rod Pashley and his wife Susan, collected her from the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital.

It is understood that the family, from Brookfield Road, have signed an exclusive deal with a national newspaper.

Doctors gave the couple the all-clear after seeing them yesterday. It had been feared that the girl would have to stay in hospital over the new year because of a family infection.

That was because doctors did not want any risk to her health after the marathon operation.

Miss Josie McGreal, hospital assistant administrator, said: "Emma was given a medical discharge on Wednesday. But she was kept in hospital as her family had a virus infection."

"Her condition is generally extremely good. We are very pleased with her progress. She will be reviewed in the admission clinic in two weeks' time."

Napley defends Smith inquest fee

Sir David Napley, the lawyer who charged £164 an hour for representing Dr Richard Arnot at the Helen Smith inquest, said yesterday that there had been a "complete misunderstanding and lack of knowledge" over the way his fee was calculated.

Sir David, who was assisted by another solicitor from his firm throughout the hearing a year ago, has been criticized for issuing a bill for £32,237.

The final charge includes a 100 per cent "mark-up" because of the complexities of the case.

It is being met by West Yorkshire County Council out of the rates, but the council chairman, Mr John Gurnell, has said he was shocked by the "enormous" bill.

Sir David, speaking on BBC Radio's *The World At One* programme, said the bill included hotel and travelling

expenses for two people from London to Leeds and Harrogate.

In order to keep it "fair", the travelling costs were based on the cost of rail fares, he added.

"There has been a complete misunderstanding and lack of knowledge on how solicitors' fees are calculated," he said. "They are not my fees. They are the fees of my firm, and what happens is that the cost of having someone working in a firm has to be worked out."

"That is the basic charge which is charged at £82 an hour, and then there is the mark-up this is the same in any business."

"If you go into a shop you pay so much for an article which represents the cost plus a mark-up which is often in excess of 100 per cent and running a legal practice is the same."

"You have to have back-up - other solicitors are employed, computers, telephones, rent, rates. All these things have to be paid for. But it is distorting the position to make it appear that the lawyer takes the whole amount and puts it in his pocket."

Sir David said that when legal fees were assessed by taxing masters they took into account the amount of work done, the complexity of it and the experience of the solicitor involved.

According to Sir David, the county council agreed to pay "reasonable" fees on behalf of Dr Arnot. But he said that he had no dealing with the council.

He said that he did not think it right that the cost should be borne by the ratepayers just because of the geographical accident of the inquest being held in their locality.

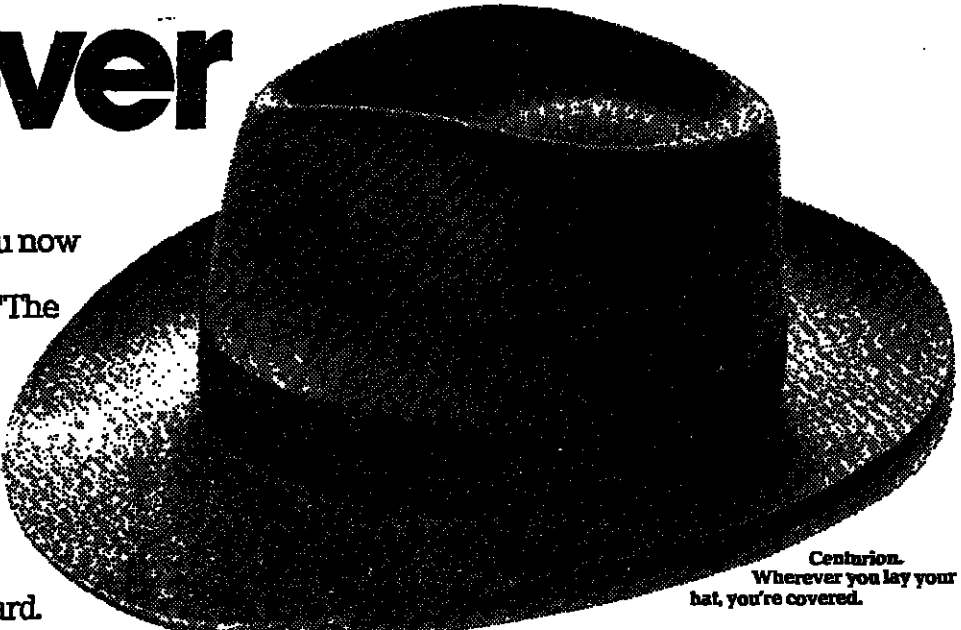
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Galtieri joins two former Presidents indicted for murder and treason

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires

Former President Galtieri of Argentina, who was also the Army commander, and the Navy and Air Force commanders who helped him to plan last year's ill-fated Falklands invasion, were arraigned yesterday on charges of murder, torture, and illegal deprivation of liberty by Argentina's highest military court.

The court appearances came one day after four former armed services commanders, including former Presidents Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola, presented themselves before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces here. They are accused of the same crimes by the military's new commander-in-chief, the new civilian President, Señor Raúl Alfonsín.

In all, nine former service commanders, comprising the first three of four military juntas ruling Argentina since the armed forces seized power here in 1976, are being tried in the Government-ordered courts martial.

One of the two commanders who has not yet been arraigned



General Galtieri. In the dock with junta colleagues

is former Navy Commander Emilio Massera, who is under "preventive arrest" in a Buenos Aires naval jail pending a civilian court investigation of the mysterious disappearance in 1977 of a Buenos Aires man believed to have been his business partner.

The courts martial proceedings, begun on Thursday, were ordered in a special decree two weeks ago by President Alfonsín, the 56-year-old leader of the mainly middle class Radical Party, who was inaugurated on

December 10 to end nearly eight years of military rule here.

The decree was seen as an effort to fulfill a repeated campaign pledge by Señor Alfonsín to try those responsible for the military's bloody campaign against leftist terrorism in the mid and late 1970s.

More than 6,000 Argentines are believed to have been kidnapped and murdered by state security and armed forces.

The new President's initiatives, which include a commission to investigate the fate of the disappeared and special legislation to facilitate the investigation of military personnel by civilian courts, have prompted a broadening pursuit by Argentines of their country's bloody past.

Court-ordered exhumations from mass graves of the bodies of presumed victims of state security forces were due to have taken place yesterday in Buenos Aires.

In apparent effort to keep a politically even-handed approach to past civil strife, President Alfonsín's Government announced on Thursday the formation of a special anti-terrorist security force



Israelis close Awali bridges

Sidon (Reuters) - Israeli forces blocked all roads into occupied southern Lebanon with barbed wire yesterday as a wave of protest which started in Sidon on Thursday spread north to Beirut.

Israeli officers said the three crossing points - at the Awali bridge on the coast, at Bisi bridge 10 miles inland and at Nihla in the Chouf mountains - would be open again on Monday. No explanation was given for the closure.

Military sources in Tel Aviv said technical reasons lay behind closing the two bridges over the Awali, Israel's northern defence line in Lebanon since its forces withdrew from Beirut. A funeral procession from Beirut was turned back at the Awali yesterday and lorry drivers who had been waiting to cross for days fumed with rage at the surprise closure.

Outbreaks of gunfire around Sidon were reported on Thursday night, but there was no confirmation of new attacks on Israeli troops in the port town.

The closure of the bridges, Southern Lebanon's only links with the rest of the country, followed a marked escalation in anti-Israeli resistance activity and a general strike against the occupation in Sidon.

Security measures imposed at the Awali last month after a bombing in the Tyre area are the main cause of Lebanese grievance.

BEIRUT: The Italian Defence Minister, Signor Giovanni Spadolini, arrived in Beirut unexpectedly yesterday to visit Italy's 2,300-strong contingent to the four-nation Western peacekeeping force in the Lebanese capital, Beirut radio said (Reuters reports). The radio gave no details of his visit and the Italian military spokesman could not be contacted.

The Italian Defence Ministry said on Thursday that Signor Spadolini had asked the Italian commander in Beirut, General Franco Angioni, to approach the Lebanese Army about reports of army checks and searches inside the Italian zone.

TEL AVIV: A seven vehicle Israeli UN convoy was caught in a guerrilla ambush on a coastal road in southern Lebanon. The Israeli pursued their attackers and the Irish, who had taken cover, escaped injury. (AP reports).

TUNIS: Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, arrived here to chair an urgent meeting of the central committee of Fatah, the divided main component of the PLO (AFP reports).

Locked up 31 years for knowing no English

From Trevor Fishlock
New York

Thirty-one years ago, David Tom was locked up in a mental institution after doctors decided he was mad. But they did not speak to him, nor he to them, because he had no English and the authorities found no one who could speak his dialect of Chinese.

Over the years he learnt only a few words of English including "No not crazy, why I here?"

He was right and the doctors wrong. Now, after a four-year legal battle, he is free and, at the age of 54, is learning to live outside an institution. He has been awarded \$140,000 compensation. He does not talk about his 31 lost years.

Mr Tom arrived in the United States as an illegal immigrant and worked in a restaurant kitchen in San Francisco. Later he moved to Chicago but learned no English because he lived his life within the large Chinese community there.

He became ill with tuberculosis and, isolated and frightened, had a nervous breakdown. Doctors diagnosed schizophrenia, but they found nobody to talk to him. His brother, also living in Chicago, did not volunteer to help him. He, too, was an illegal immigrant and feared he would be deported if he made himself known.

So Mr Tom spent his life in four institutions, talking with no one. It was not until 1978 that he had a conversation in his native tongue. He was taken out for a meal in a Chinese restaurant and began talking to the cook.

He told the cook his story and asked for help. The cook told the hospital worker accompanying him that in his view Mr Tom was not mentally ill and that started the process which led to his freedom this week.

He is now in the care of Mr Patrick Murphy, a court-appointed guardian. Mr Murphy, a lawyer, said yesterday: "He is living with Chinese people who are helping to guide him back to normal life. Naturally he has been damaged by being locked up for 31 years. He is frightened that he will be sent back."

Climbers airlifted off by order of Muldoon

Timaru, New Zealand (Reuters) - Seven disabled Japanese climbers were airlifted off New Zealand's highest peak on the orders of the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Muldoon.

All members of the Tokyo Deaf and Mute Climbing Society, they were flown down from Mount Cook by Air Force helicopter after ignoring earlier warnings that conditions on the 12,421ft mountain were dangerous.

"They have done their training on Mount Fujiyama where you can walk to the top and back on a Sunday afternoon," Mr Muldoon said. "I suppose there will be a bit of a fuss, but there would have been a worse fuss if they got themselves killed."

Lady Young to visit Grenada

Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, will visit Grenada between January 5 and 7, the Foreign Office announced. It will be the first visit by a British minister since the US invasion.

When Lady Young meets the Governor-General, Sir Paul Scoon, and members of the Interim Council, the question of aid will be high on the agenda. Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, will also be visiting Grenada next week.

Two survive in plane wreckage

Albuquerque, New Mexico (Reuters) - A pilot and his son are in hospital after surviving the five days of freezing temperatures in the wreckage of a light aircraft that crashed in rugged mountains near here.

Mr Tony Mink, aged 36, an aircraft dealer, and his son Brian, aged 14, were found by a search helicopter. Mr Mink's wife, Charlene, died shortly after the crash.

Royal escape

Salzburg (Reuters) - Princess Margaret of The Netherlands and her husband and two sons escaped unhurt from a two-car collision which killed a 20-year-old West German, the other driver near here. The princess is a sister of Queen Beatrix.

Test-tube trio

Kiel (AP) - A West German woman, aged 26, has given birth to Europe's first set of test-tube triplets, doctors announced here. The babies, all boys, were delivered by Caesarean section and they and their mother are doing fine.

Writer punished

Moscow (Reuters) - Michel Heller, the Russian writer who has lived in France for the past decade, was deprived of his Soviet citizenship in an official decree published here. It accused him of "systematic hostile activities".

Tourists hurt

Budapest (AP) - Sixteen West German tourists were injured, six of them seriously, when their bus crashed into a ditch while being overtaken by a lorry in dense fog. The Hungarian lorry driver was arrested.

Plague victims

Dar es Salaam (Reuters) - Plague has killed 10 more people in northern Tanzania, bringing the death toll over the past two weeks to 29.

Artful dodgers

Manila (Reuters) - About 40 boys apparently trained by modern-day Filipino Fagin as petty thieves pickpockets and bag-snatchers have been arrested here. They ranged in age from six to 14.

Belaúnde reshuffles Peru Cabinet

Lima (Reuters) - President Fernando Belaúnde Terry of Peru was due to swear in three new ministers yesterday in his biggest Cabinet shakeup in nearly a year.

The reshuffle had been awaited since November 16 when President Belaúnde, who replaced half his 16-member Cabinet last January, said he would make changes in his team before the end of the year.

The most important ministry to change hands is Energy and Mines, which oversees products earning Peru more than half of its yearly export income of about \$2,000m.

Peru is the world's second biggest silver producer and the sixth biggest producer of copper. It also exports nearly 40,000 tonnes a day of guano, and fuel oil to the United States and Colombia.

The new minister, Señor Jose Benavides Munoz, aged 55, was previously manager of Peru's main steelmaker, the state-owned Siderperu corporation. At the Fisheries Ministry, Señor Ismael Benavides Ferrey-

Riot troops seize 100 in Uruguay

Montevideo (Reuters) - Riot troops and mounted police charged into a crowd demonstrating against Uruguay's 10-year-old military Government and arrested about 100 people, witnesses said yesterday.

Several demonstrators were kicked, punched and hit with truncheons during the Thursday night protest. One young man was beaten by several policemen and then dragged to a building site where an officer kicked his head, they said.

Motorists on Montevideo's main avenue blew their horns and neighbours banged saucepans from their balconies.

The demonstration, in support of Mr German Araujo, the owner of an independent radio station shut down by the Government, was staged outside the flat where he has been on hunger strike.

Small demonstrations have been held there every day since the radio station was closed on December 27.

Explosions at mosques cause panic

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

The recent upsurge of terrorist attacks inside Israel and the occupied territories intensified yesterday with the explosion of two booby-trapped grenades outside mosques in the West Bank city of Hebron, and a narrowly foiled attempt to blow up a crowded bus full of Jewish passengers in Jerusalem.

The bomb on the bus was safely defused after being spotted under a seat as the vehicle was driving close to the main open air market. Earlier this month, Mr Yasser Arafat's wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility for a similar attack in which six Jews were killed, and more than 30 injured.

Yesterday one Islamic holy man was injured in the Hebron blast, both of which were claimed in a call to Israel radio by an extreme right-wing Jewish organization called Terror Against Terror (words, which in their original Hebrew make up the ominous acronym, T.N.T.). The Israeli Army issued fragmentation grenades were the same as those used in nine similar attacks against Arab or Christian targets in and around Jerusalem over the past three weeks.

The PLO's bomb is assumed to have been the catalyst which prompted the latest wave of Jewish revenge attacks. Yesterday's Mosque explosions caused mass panic throughout the West Bank because the caller claimed that two more attacks against Arab targets were planned later.

Mr Mustafa Nathe, the Hebron, accused the Israeli military authorities of overall responsibility for the mosque explosion, and called for a determined effort to arrest the culprits. No arrests have yet been made for the string of recent attacks claimed by Terror Against Terror, and the Government has been blamed for not ensuring a proper investigation.

Madrid hunt for envoy's killer

Madrid - Spanish police were yesterday hunting among opponents of Mr Yasser Arafat, Palestine Liberation Organization leader, for the man who on Thursday shot dead a Jordanian Embassy official (Richard Wigg writes). They had few clues, apart from a claim for responsibility by the so-called Arab Revolutionary Brigades, made in a telephone call to Paris.

Police think the killer of Walid Jamal Bakiz, aged 34, may have belonged to the Abu Nidal Palestinian terrorist group, which in September last year killed in Madrid a first secretary of the Kuwait Em-



Mission to Syria: Mr Jackson (right) and his party on the flight from New York

Hopeful Jackson flies to Damascus

Frankfurt (AP) - The Rev Jesse Jackson left yesterday on the second leg of his journey to Syria, saying he was hopeful about arranging the release of the US Navy pilot Lieutenant Robert Goodman, captured during an American raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon.

"The point is, if we do nothing, nothing will happen," he said after resting in a VIP lounge following an overnight flight from New York.

Mr Jackson, accompanied by a delegation of US clergymen, left for Damascus on a Lufthansa flight.

The civil rights leader and Democratic

presidential candidate told reporters that neither race nor politics played a role in his decision to fly to Syria.

"This is a truly American matter. I have been involved in humanitarian missions in the past," Mr Jackson said he was carrying a letter from Lieutenant Goodman's mother, who lives in New York. He spoke to her by telephone shortly before leaving Frankfurt and said he promised to try to arrange a telephone call from her son if possible.

"We will appeal to President Assad (of Syria) to release him on humanitarian grounds."

US fails to muster much support for its threat of withdrawal

Britain tries to change Unesco from within

The British Government has no intention of following the United States' decision to withdraw from Unesco, the cultural agency of the United Nations.

This was made clear yesterday in a Foreign Office statement which emphasizes that Britain is better placed to achieve improvements and economies from within the organization.

Washington's reasons for withdrawal were given as the alleged extravagance of Unesco and its "hostilities" to a free society.

The Foreign Office statement says: "The United Kingdom fully understands the reasons which have led the United States to take their decision to withdraw. We have always been foremost among those member-countries of Unesco which have been critical of the organization's performance."

"We have, in particular, led the resistance to all attempts to restrict the freedom of the media through a 'New World Information and Communications Order', and to redefine human rights in a way which would only restrict them for the individual."

"We have fought hard to

Spending will rise but contributions fall

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

Few things are simple at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the budget is probably least simple of all.

Although some 60 per cent of Unesco's spending is in French francs, it levies contributions and keeps accounts in US dollars. When drawing up the budget, Unesco therefore assumes a dollar-franc exchange rate for two years ahead - and errs on the cautious side.

So when the Unesco director-general proposed the 1984-85 budget, a two-year total of \$403.1 (£278m), eight Western nations, headed by Britain and including France, protested. The assumed exchange rate of 6.45 francs to the dollar was too low, they argued. Some of the eight also insisted on no increase in the budget instead of one of 6.1 per cent.

The eight were able to send the budget back for revision. Last month the general conference passed a new two-year figure: \$374.4m. Furthermore, Unesco asked the 152 members to pay only \$344.7m.

In fact, the cut was not what it seemed: Unesco was digging into past over-payments result-

ing from unrealistic dollar-franc exchange rates. So, almost miraculously, spending for 1984-85 will rise by about \$10m, or 4.5 per cent, while contributions will fall by about 10 per cent.

But the percentage that members pay is unchanged. Britain's assessment is 4.61 per cent of the total, based on a formula that includes population and national income. But the \$15.85m it is due to pay will turn out to be far less - thanks again to the currency fluctuations fund, the 1984 contribution of \$7.94m will be reduced to \$4.86m.

West Germany's share of the total is 8.44 per cent and France's is 6.43 per cent. Japan, because of its larger population and wealth, pays 10.9 per cent. The Soviet Union, with far more people than Japan contributes 10.41 per cent, owing to its lower per capita income.

Italy will contribute 3.69 per cent, Canada 3.04 per cent, Spain 1.91 per cent, East Germany 1.37 per cent, Brazil 1.37 and Sweden 1.30 per cent. The remaining 141 countries' contributions total 22.24 per cent.

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T.12

Britain gives up 95-year responsibility for tiny Brunei at midnight tonight

From David Watts, Singapore

Britain gives up the last of its direct responsibilities in South-East Asia at midnight tonight, when the tiny state of Brunei attains full independence.

Reading a short declaration of independence on the podium in the centre of his capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, the Sultan, Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah, will then bring to an end 95 years of British protection for the enclave on the north coast of Borneo.

Sole responsibility for some 200,000 souls will once again pass to the Sultan's family which has held power there for the last 400 years.



Sir Muda: Responsibility for 200,000 people

With the Sultan will be other members of the royal family and the government, who will also attend prayers earlier on at the Omar Ali Saifuddin mosque. It was named after the present Sultan's father, who has been the power behind Brunei's dogged maintenance of the British connexion for so long.

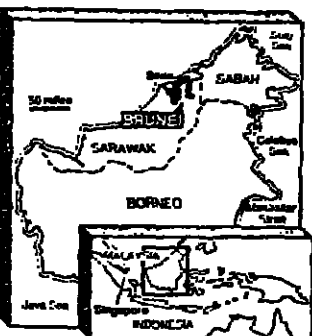
Early next year, Brunei will take its place as the sixth member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations. It will be not only the richest per capita in the group but also arguably the most heavily armed. It is also expected to

apply to join the United Nations.

But while tonight's celebrations will mark the end of British responsibility for Brunei's defence and foreign affairs, the British connexion will remain close for the foreseeable future.

A large amount of Brunei's foreign financial investments will still be in the hands of the Crown Agents, a British Gurkha battalion will be stationed at the oil fields and some 150 Britons will remain with the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment to help bring into service British Rapier anti-aircraft missiles.

But the historic handing over of power to the young Sultan will pass with hardly a ripple in the little sultanate. The streets are decked with flags and banners proclaiming merdeka (Independence), but in reality there will be no change in the lives of Bruneians. They are already well used to the luxuries of the twentieth century and well protected from the harsh world beyond the South China Sea by seemingly endless oil wealth.



Microchip smuggling ring broken

From Our Own Correspondent Singapore

Advanced microchips smuggled through Singapore are being channelled to East block countries.

The Singapore and Malaysian authorities appear to have broken a sophisticated smuggling ring with the arrest of three people in Singapore but investigations are continuing and further arrests are expected.

The Singapore Government is reluctant to say very much and so far the police have not named those arrested or revealed the capacity of the stolen chips. But it is clear that investigations have been under way for some time since the chips began disappearing from the Panang Malaysia plant of the American firm Mosteck.

Chips started to go missing some months ago. A few would be stolen during shipment from the factory in north-west Malaysia to be sold under the counter in some of the dozens of outlets for computer equipment in Singapore.

Mosteck tightened its security and the problem disappeared, but the smugglers began staging fake accidents and hijackings during which the chips would be misappropriated and passed, through the Singapore computer stores, into the hands of visiting Indians posing as tourists. They would buy the chips for onward transmission.

The chips were then apparently channelled through India to countries of the East block in Europe or the Soviet Union, though the police so far have not named the countries involved.

The three arrests were made during raids by Singapore police on Christmas Day.

The arrests are prompted by a particularly spectacular mishap in Malaysia when a lorry carrying chips worth 1m ringgit (about £300,000) lost its cargo.

Nuremberg (AP) - Sixteen people, including six policemen, were taken to hospital yesterday after nitric acid leaking from a tanker lorry created a poison cloud on the east side of Nuremberg.

Between 30 and 40 people were temporarily evacuated from their homes and others in the affected area were told to shut all doors and windows. Firemen declared the danger to be over after three hours.

Closure warning to Peugeot plant

Paris (Reuters) - The management of the Peugeot Car Division told union representatives at its strike-bound Talbot car plant at Poissy yesterday that the factory would be closed indefinitely from Monday, and that salaries would not be paid.

They said in a statement that workers had refused to return to the plant had prevented essential maintenance work from being carried out to enable production to start on January 2.

About 100 striking workers occupying the plant refused for the second day running yesterday to allow in the maintenance teams. The rebel trade unionists are defying a court order to leave.

The statement said the plant would reopen only when conditions had returned to normal.

The plant has been paralysed by a strike for the past three weeks, and today's move has cast doubts over Talbot's future. Peugeot, which purchased Talbot from Chrysler in 1978, earlier this week announced moves to distance itself legally from Talbot.

Talbot S.N.C., which builds

the cars at Poissy, is jointly owned by Peugeot and Talbot S.A. A statement said Peugeot's shares would be transferred to a dormant company called Sora S.A.

The dispute has embarrassed France's government. It began when Peugeot announced it wanted to axe 2,900 workers from the Poissy plant. The Prime Minister, M. Pierre Mauroy, persuaded the management to reduce the figure to 1,900.

M. Jean-Pierre Noual, shop steward with the pro-Socialist CFDT union, said yesterday: "The fight goes on. We are going to organize a big campaign to explain all this. We want the redundancy notices withdrawn and negotiations started."

The Communist-led CGT has accepted the principle of the 1,905 lay-offs, but maintains there must be negotiations over how they take place. The CFDT leadership has refused to accept the redundancy scheme and its chief, M. Edmond Maire, has attacked the Government's handling of the Talbot affair.

New foreign minister in North Korea

Tokyo (Reuters) - Mr Ho Dam, North Korea's Foreign Minister, who held the post for 13 years, was replaced yesterday by Mr Kim Yong Nam, the North Korean Central News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored here, said Mr Ho had been removed from the Foreign Ministry portfolio and his deputy premiership and transferred.

Mr Kim is a politburo member, a secretary of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers (Communist) Party and head of the party's international affairs department.

Unita conduct praised by freed captives

Johannesburg (Reuters) - Twenty-six foreign fighters released by the Angolan guerrilla group Unita spent their first day of freedom yesterday and said they were well-treated during months as hostages.

Most of the group, born of Portuguese parents in Angola, a former Portuguese colony, were preparing to leave for Lisbon last night and a new life in Portugal.

"I feel sad about leaving Angola - I had everything there," said Senhor Antonio Silva, aged 31, "but I'm young and can restart life in Portugal."

Senhor Silva, his wife and two children and 17 other Portuguese were among the 26 who flew in from Angola on Thursday on a Red Cross flight. The group, which also included two Spaniards, a Uruguayan and a Brazilian, was set free in a Christmas amnesty by Unita and its leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, who is fighting the Marxist government in Luanda.

The Angolan-born Senhor Silva, captured nine months ago in Alto Catumbelo province south of the capital, spoke with neither bitterness nor emotion of his 78-day trek with his Unita captors in which they covered 950 miles.



The rescue: Two children climbing out of their stalled cable car into a rescue box after being trapped for several hours.

120 spend night on high wire

Bellinzona, Switzerland (AP) - About 120 passengers descending from the 6,471 ft Mt Tamaro were trapped in 30 blocked cable cars for up to 12 hours before the last were freed early yesterday in a spectacular rescue operation. Police said no one was injured.

Rescuers from the Swiss Alpine Club, lowered from helicopters on ropes or hoisting themselves from cable car to cable car after climbing up via supporting pylons, freed most by lowering the passengers to the ground in nets, one by one. Others were picked up directly by helicopters. Fire ladders were used in evacuating those trapped in cars closer to the ground.



The relief: A child rescued from one of the 30 stalled cable cars reunited with his father.

Attack on Angola deplored by UK

Britain yesterday condemned South African incursions into Angola and the bombing of the headquarters there of the Namibian nationalist movement, Swapo.

The Foreign Office issued a statement deploring the action, saying: "We have repeatedly condemned violence in Southern Africa, from whichever quarter it comes, and we supported the recent Security Council resolution calling for the withdrawal of South African forces from Angolan territory."

"We therefore cannot but deplore this latest South African action, and regret the loss of life which has resulted."

"We believe that the withdrawal of South African troops, and indeed of all foreign troops, from Angola, would improve the prospects for a peaceful independence settlement in Namibia."

Mr Robert Hughes, Labour MP for Aberdeen North and Chairman of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, called on the Government to consider withdrawing the British Ambassador from Pretoria as a protest at South Africa's military action.

He has also sent a telegram on behalf of the movement to Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, urging him to summon the South African Ambassador in London to the Foreign Office for an official protest.

● LISBON: Angola claimed yesterday that South Africa had increased the strength of its forces involved in the offensive into Southern Angola (AP reports).

The official news agency Angop said in a broadcast monitored here that three South African motorized brigades, 100 aircraft and artillery units using 140mm and 155mm guns were engaged in fierce battle in three Southern Angolan provinces.

The report said the incursion was aimed at weakening the combat strength of Angolan defence forces and that only South African and Angolan troops were involved in the fighting.

● PRETORIA: South Africa said nine of its soldiers had died in the three-week action and one is missing for the loss of at least 52 Swapo fighters (Reuters reports).

Germans usher in new year with cable TV network

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Tomorrow morning at 10.30, to the introduction of Handel's Firework Music, West Germany's first private television station begins broadcasting. About 1,000 homes in Ludwigshafen, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's home town, will be able to tune in to the first experimental cable television network in this country.

After bitter and still unresolved argument, much of it along party political lines, Bonn has given the go-ahead for a pilot project which ends the monopoly of the two publicly controlled networks. Although the response so far in this industrial town on the Rhine has been distinctly cool - falling well below the expected 30,000 viewers thought necessary to test the concept - state governments, advertisers, television executives and newspapers will be watching the programme keenly and evaluating the response.

Five years ago the prime ministers of the federal states agreed to test cable television in four cities, and the post office began laying cables in Ludwigshafen and in Munich, Dortmund and West Berlin where broadcasts will also begin later.

Commercial television as such does not exist in this country, and has long been a touchy topic. The two public networks, ARD and ZDF, building on the basis and tradition of the first television broadcasting set up with the help of the British in Hamburg in 1952, are carefully balanced in the political allegiances of their editors and senior executives.

Social Democrats, fearing the influence of powerful Conservative media magnates, have long opposed any change in the present set-up. They have given warnings that commercial broadcasting would develop in the way it has in America. The Christian Democrats, however, want greater competition in the airwaves and have championed cable television. Significantly it is in Rhineland-Palatinate, a CDU-

ruled land that the first experiment is to begin.

Chancellor Kohl will not be among those able to tune in tomorrow as only part of Ludwigshafen is hooked up. There will be no special ceremony for the start of the experiment, which is under the aegis of the specially created City Cable Communication Authority.

The copper cables have a 24-channel capacity, but although hundreds of interest groups applied to make programmes, the pilot project will be confined to one channel and most programmes will be supplied by a Frankfurt cable and satellite company.

Tomorrow's broadcasts will include a documentary, *Hansel and Gretel*, a puppet film with the singer Engelbert Humperdinck, and 10-minute news broadcasts produced by the editorial team of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

The newspaper has contracted to supply news from its correspondents for four daily broadcasts. The company will also provide during its evening broadcasts two feature films, a cartoon and music each day.

During the rest of the day the cable will carry music compiled specially by ZDF, educational programmes from the south-west regional ARD channel, broadcasts by local religious groups and schools and even what the City Cable Authority has called an "open channel" allowing ordinary citizens access to the air - though viewer interest is likely to be limited.

Ludwigshafen has also made arrangements to receive broadcasts from British-based English-language satellite television. Sky Channel, owned by the Murdoch group, to begin broadcasting.

The Frankfurt company will spend over 100m marks (£25m) on programmes in the coming year, though it expects only a very meagre return at first. Advertising will bring in virtually nothing from Ludwigshafen.

Berlin rail transfer deal signed

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn

The agreement transferring ownership and control of the West Berlin section of the city's S-Bahn (elevated urban railway) from the East German Reichsbahn was signed in East Berlin yesterday by the East German Minister of Transport and a member of the west Berlin Senate.

The agreement, endorsed by the Western allies because it does not impinge on wider questions of the status of Berlin transfers 90 miles of track to the control of the West Berlin Transport Authority on January 9. Immediate cuts will be made in the loss-making service, at present operating over only 47 miles of track.

Dr Richard von Weizsäcker, the Chief Burgomaster of West Berlin, welcomed the agreement as an important event for Berlin and for East-West relations.

Pershings 'ready for action'

Bonn (AP) - The first battery of Pershing 2 nuclear missiles in Western Europe is "ready for action", the West German Defence Ministry confirmed yesterday.

Police detained a small group of anti-missile protesters who attempted to block the goliath US Army's Mutlangen base, near Stuttgart, where the nine medium range rockets are stationed.

Nato began deploying 372 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe after the Soviet Union suspended arms talks with the United States last month in Geneva.

The Atlantic alliance believes the missiles are needed to counter the Soviet build-up of medium range SS20 rockets in recent years. The faster, more accurate Pershing 2s are replacing the Pershing 1As in West Germany.

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The South African spy scandal

West fears leaks from secret Nato-link base

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The discovery that Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, former commander of the naval dockyard had been spying for the Soviet Union for the past 20 years was a deeply embarrassing, but also oddly reassuring, experience for the South African Government. This week he was convicted of treason by the Cape Supreme Court.

It was obviously worrying that Gerhardt and his Swiss-born wife, Ruth, who assisted him in his spying from the early 1970s onwards should for so long have eluded the vaunted detective powers of South Africa's feared intelligence manichee.

On the other hand, the case furnished welcome evidence to support Pretoria's belief (widely regarded abroad as exaggerated) that South Africa is a prime target of Soviet subversion because of its geographic minerals vital to the economies of the West.

But how much damage did Gerhardt do? The question is difficult to answer, because the trial, which began on September 5, was held in *Camera* throughout and details of the state's evidence have accordingly, not been made public.

The judge's edited version of his finding revealed only that Gerhardt, who is 48, had been employed by the Soviet Union since 1964, that he made five visits to Moscow between 1964 and his arrest in January this year (accompanied on two occasions by his wife) and that he transmitted military secrets to the Soviet Union.

Gerhardt, who joined the South African Navy 30 years ago, was one of four commandoes at Simonstown. He had been commander of the dockyard for three years. Before that he was on the technical staff at the South African Defence Force's headquarters in Pretoria.

Simonstown, which was used by Britain until the mid-1970s, is the most developed naval dockyard on the African coastline outside the Mediterranean. It is strategically located and has extensive repair, maintenance and construction facilities.

Gerhardt would have had an intimate knowledge of the activities of South Africa's small navy, including its three French-built Daphne-class submarines. It seems unlikely, however, that information about the movements of the South African fleet, which is largely confined to a coastal patrol role, could have held much interest for the Russians.

Far more serious, from the point of view of Western security, was the access Gerhardt may or may not have had to Silvermine, the secret maritime tracking station concealed under tons of reinforced concrete in a hillside between Cape Town and Simonstown.

South Africa's attempts to be openly accepted into the Western military block, notably through the creation of a South Atlantic Treaty Organization (Sato) to match Nato, have repeatedly been rebuffed because of the country's race policies. But it has long had an unofficial, back-door association with Nato.

Much of the electronic equipment used at Silvermine, which was built about 10 years ago at a time of increasing Western concern about Soviet naval expansion, was furnished by Nato countries. There is a steady flow of intelligence between Pretoria and Western capitals.

It has been suggested that, though Silvermine, which carries out detailed, round-the-clock monitoring of all shipping movements in the South Atlantic and Indian oceans, Gerhardt could have passed the Russians information on the disposition of the British fleet during the Falklands conflict.

Others say, however, that the Russians would have had perfectly satisfactory independent means of finding this out. Another period in Gerhardt's career that has aroused interest

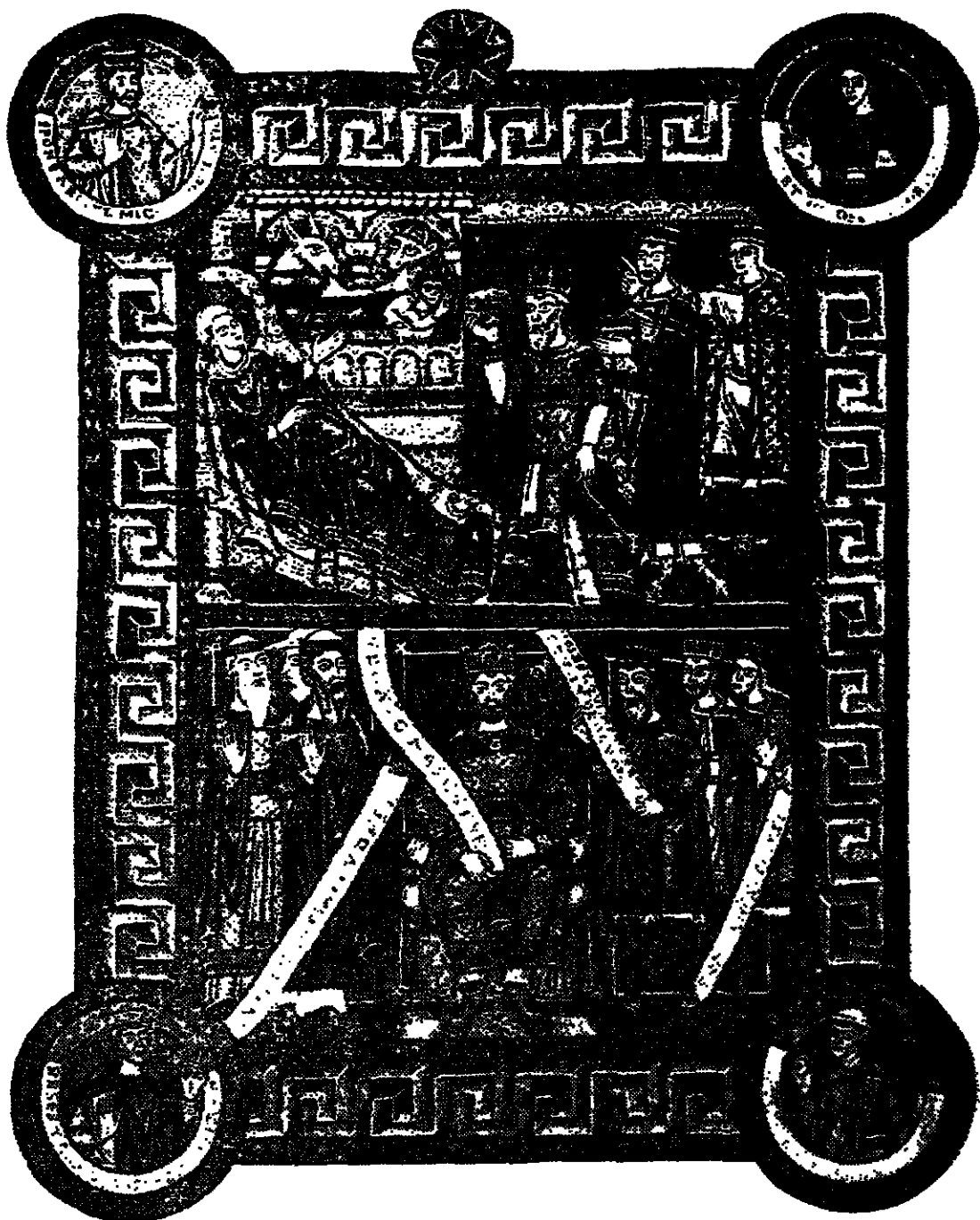
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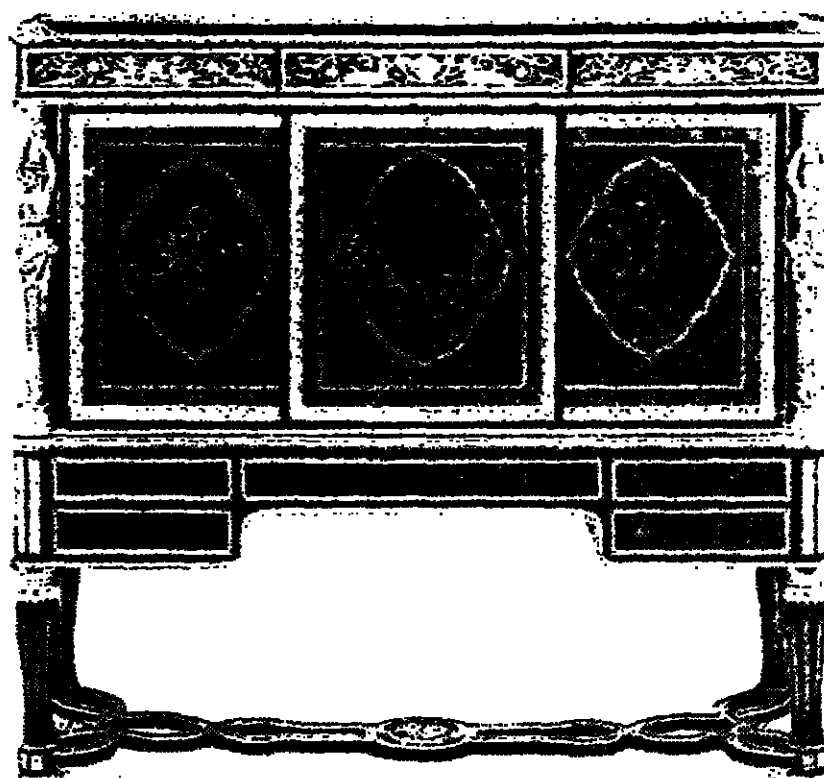
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"L'Attente," by Degas, was the most valuable picture sold from this famous collection. The whole sale which included the Havemeyer Collection and other Impressionist and Modern Paintings, was held in New York on 18th May 1983 and realised over £23 million, a world record total for a single auction.



A MILANESE THREE-QUARTER ARMOUR

Made for Henri II, King of France (regn. 1547-1559) by Giovanni Paolo Negrolì, c. 1540-1545, the most famous armorer of his period. Sold on 5th May 1983 as part of the Hever Castle Collection for £1,925,000, a world record not only for armour but for any item of decorative art.

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SPORTING DIARY

Cricket stars

The England cricket touring party lined up to go to Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan last week looking as if they were really going to Krypton, Perelandra and the Horse Head's Nebula. Somehow their shiny silver astronaut jackets do not seem quite right for the game WG played. Happily, the Starship Enterprise ultra-lightweight blouses, (that is apparently the correct term) are not the official tour uniform. The lads will wear Burton blazers with a George and Dragon badge for the photograph when they stand with their hands behind their backs. The Silver Surfer outfits are strictly non-compulsory.

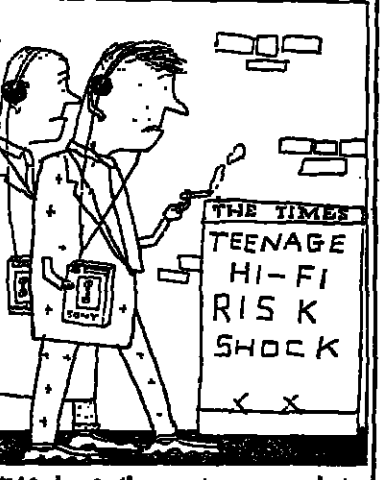
Moral losers

That promising third division footballer, I. T. Botham, has been getting rapped over the knuckles for his behaviour lately. Football referees and men in authority in some other sport keep telling him off. But their problems are as nothing when compared with the disciplinary dramas of the Tunisian football team. Four players, including the captain, Tarek Dhiab, were banned for their behaviour in the Mediterranean Games; a week later, the entire team was suspended. The crimes were "lack of effort" and "lack of morals".

Dire choice

David Gower has been getting in the mood for the Fijian stage of the tour by going into Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* studio. The results will be heard on February 14. He revealed an electric taste - Handel and Elton John, as well as a band who should have composed an anthem for England's last tour: Dire Straits.

BARRY FANTONI



"At least they get you used to wearing a hearing aid"

Game of the name

There is always a touch of the Irish in National Hunt racing, but was Ladbrokes going too far with its race card competition on Boxing Day, the day of the King George VI Chase at Kempton? To win the prize, a portable television, three questions on past winners of the King George had to be answered. The same race card carried on the inside cover exhaustive details of every winner since 1938. Perhaps the only question missing was: after whom is the King George VI Chase named?

Is this the ultimate honour for the Yorkshire whizz kid trainer Michael Dickinson? At Kempton on Boxing Day he was buried beneath a locusts swarm of autograph seekers, everyone of them twice his age.

Money matters

The president of Inter-Milan football club, Ivano Fraizzoli, commenting on allegations by the Dutch club, Groningen, that the Dutch coach was offered £55,000 to fix a UEFA Cup match between the two clubs said: "It's a pack of lies. Anyway, how could you hope to buy an entire team with such a small amount?"

Sack record

Some people consider that Peter Carey was prematurely sacked as manager of the Tottenham League side, Barking, 48 hours before what would have been one of the greatest days of his career, an FA Cup tie against third-division club, Plymouth Argyle. But Carey could undoubtedly take it in his stride; he holds the world record for the shortest-ever managerial career. He was boss of Chelmsford City for 20 minutes. It is in the *Guinness Book of Records*. He never went near Chelmsford's ground, either. He was offered the job on the telephone by a new board of directors, and promptly accepted. The directors then discovered they did not have the authority they thought they had. So they called Carey back and gave him the push.

Nightmare

Richard Greenwood, the England rugby coach with a 100 per cent record (1 out of 1) had a pudding-induced nightmare over Christmas, and dreamt that next weekend's England trial game had somehow become confused with American football. The air was filled with incomprehensible codes, everyone fell over, and Greenwood awoke in a cold sweat. Meanwhile the England captain, Peter Wheeler, his thumb in plaster and unable to turn out for his club, Leicester, against the Barbarians last week, was given the job of press steward instead. That's a very serious incentive to get match fit again.

Simon Barnes

Are we helping to fulfil George Orwell's prophecies?

Shadow of the Thought Police

by Neil Kinnock



Nineteen Eighty-Four was satire, not prophecy. Orwell was cautioning against complacency towards dictatorship, small or great, plutocratic or plutobureaucratic. He was exposing, by exaggeration, tendencies and potentials already present and capable of development. He was sounding an alarm - repeated in his essays of the period - about the consequences which the new atom bomb could have for relationships and resources across the world.

If the satire has an edge of prophecy it is because some of Orwell's caps come uncomfortably close to fitting heads today.

Orwell, whatever the tom-robbers say, was a radical democratic socialist, a fierce libertarian, a patriot for the decency which he sometimes sought to nourish in Britain.

The combination of qualities made him willing to deal with the realization that progress was not automatic and that, for the first time in two centuries, it was reasonable to acknowledge that the future could be worse than the past. Mankind had the mentality and the means to make it so. That was the warning in Orwell's pessimistic parody.

When coupled with old-age ruthlessness, the brand-new technologies of communication, persuasion, organization and destruction could, he knew, produce power more absolute than anything previously known. So much was - and is - obvious. The assiduous barbarities of modern dictatorship prove it.

At that level, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a plain indictment of totalitarianism that can be applauded by any freedom-lover. But at another level Orwell's book becomes different in quality and importance from a shelf-full of other chronicles of repression. It is a parable of the way in which "power as an end, not a means" is installed and sustained in the political state and in any institution where minorities wield authority over majorities.

Fear is certainly the key to such power. But physical coercion is not enough to keep whole generations in check - the most that it can do is gain unstable, sullen submission. To be secure, even absolute power needs the compliance of the multitude. To be enduring in its control over people, imposed power needs convention, horror of non-conformity, dread of being out of step in deed, word and - ultimately - in thought. And it is that which Orwell reports in 1984 in order to encourage resistance to creeping acquiescence.

Being Orwell he naturally put the major obligation for resistance on

his own class - the intelligentsia of the Outer Party - even while invariably regarding them as spineless spongers. And, true to form too, he believed that "if there was hope, it lay in true proles" even though the confidence was purely sentimental.

As they rewrite *The Times* and falsified history, Winston Smith and his companions in the Ministry of Truth were all caricatures of intellectual who, in their brain and bones, know better, but stick to their positions rather than their convictions. Orwell must have taken mischievous delight in contriving their literary liquidation. Duplicity could clearly not save them when the System decided they were dispensable - or "redundant" as more modern parlance has it.

The proles, meanwhile, were rarely bothered by Thought Police or telly screens. They had "films, football, beer and, above all, gambling to fill up the horizons of their minds." It was *proletariat*, the state provided cultural opiate of "rubbishy newspapers" and pornography "produced by... a factory

process", rather than surveillance and terror that kept them in control. Our kind of state, Orwell knew, is different. It barely tolerates the commercial sale of such things and the *proletariat* is not limited to one class. He did exaggerate. Satirists do. These satires of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* are not as widely quoted as those of the mangling of the language. But they are strong and perceptive and exceeded in significance only by Orwell's central satirical target - the rigidly hierarchical society, the oligarchical economy, the permanent warfare of the superpower Oceania.

The sole, self-perpetuating reason for the existence of "Oligarchical Collectivism", the political regime of Oceania, is the maintenance of the status quo. The whole edifice of organized hate, of continual shortage and of social paralysis has at its base the "burning off" of "the surplus value" by literary expenditure which, Emmanuel Goldstein's testament explains, preserves the existing elites and prevents the abolition of poverty.

In this world of starving nations and deadlocked empires the parody is too plausible for comfort, even though we have thankfully not experienced the historical acceleration of nuclear war that gave the people of Airstrip One the Big Brother age.

In that and most other respects our 1984 is not *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, of course. But when so much is dedicated in the modern world to the build up of weaponry and psyche and when domestic and foreign policies are guided so largely by negative reactions to other blocks and so little by positive efforts to develop economies and elevate societies, the warfare state is still nearer than it should be.

In the age of the SS20 and Pershing, the control of relationships and opinions are better-organized by a variety of smooth and savage means than ever before. And the stockpiles of the states, collective and capitalist, go on mounting up.

Those similarities would not have surprised Orwell. The veteran of *Down and Out* knew the state of magistrates, magicians, "the spike", the means test, the police and the colonial administration at least as well as he knew the state of Stalin and Hitler. The latter attracted his undiluted venom. The former provoked his bitter mistrust. He knew that if it was not upheld by confident, vigilant, active citizens, ostensible democracy could be routed by the abuse of public authority, or by economic insecurity, or by arrogant order-givers and compliant order-takers.

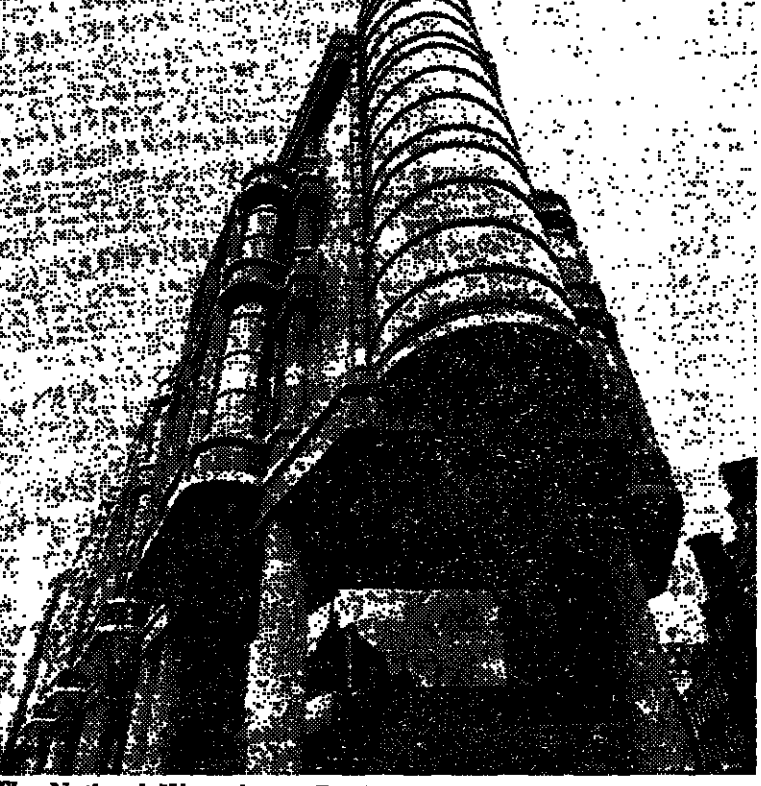
The question for us now in 1984 is not "have we reached *Nineteen Eighty-Four*." We plainly have not and we never will, any more than anyone has ever lived in Lilliput or Brobdingnag. The question must be "what elements in our current condition give substance to the satire of Orwell?" The answer cannot be comforting. The divisions of the planet, in the still enduring demarcations of social class, in the prejudices and the dictated fads of the *goodthink* and *badthink* of our time, in the structures of press ownership, in a state which is being reduced as a source of care and opportunity while being extended as a means of control, the trends and dispositions that provoked Orwell's warnings still exist. Worse, they are stronger than they should be in a thriving democracy, worse, alone one that produced George Orwell.

"Don't let it happen" he said. "It depends on you." And you, and you. The author is Leader of the Labour Party.

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A new avenue for the architects

Suresh Karadi



The National Westminster Bank building in Shaftesbury Avenue: traditional bay windows mixed with modern bronze metal

Mr Michael Manser has made it his mission as president of the Royal Institute of British Architects to attack our planning laws which, he maintains, inhibit and stifle the production of good modern architecture.

I disagree. The architecture of the last 45 years would have been even worse without control. Mr Manser, like most architects, is reluctant to accept that our present planning laws are the democratic expression of widespread public revulsion to what the Modern Movement effortlessly achieved in the 1950s and 1960s.

Architects are now being obliged to respect and to respond to individual sites and, as a result, are beginning to rediscover all those once-commonplace devices which gave visual interest and human scale to buildings, but which were proscribed for decades by the strict, puritan canons of the Modern Movement.

Cut through in the 1880s as a traffic improvement, Shaftesbury Avenue has always been lined with mediocre buildings and the chief interest of the street lies in its sinuous course. The existing buildings in the street do, however, have the virtue of consistency of scale combined with variety in colour and texture. The three new buildings respect this urban character without opening themselves to the charge of being pastiche.

The largest of the new buildings is part of a long-running controversy, the redevelopment of Piccadilly Circus. The site, which once housed the Trocadero Restaurant off Shaftesbury Avenue, has now been largely rebuilt as a complex of shops and restaurants. Many of the existing buildings have been retained while new facades have appeared.

These new facades, identical in style, are the work of those very professional commercial architects, Fitzroy Robinson & Partners. The Shaftesbury Avenue facade is given depth and subtlety by having a structure of painted metal poles and panels which stand proud of the large first-floor windows which light the restaurants behind.

The skyline is given interest by modelling the flat metal parapet into a type of battlement with flagpoles, and the whole facade does something which seemed quite impossible a few years back: it actually bends to follow the line of the street. The result is a building which is lively and of a clearly modern, vaguely "high tech" character, but which fits into the street.

Over the road is a more distinguished essay in this manner: the block housing a new National Westminster Bank office designed by Powell & Moya, a firm usually associated with university buildings. Again this block is clearly modern. The structure, of hammered concrete, is expressed externally and the intervening spaces are filled with glass and bronze metal. But again,

the facade is given depth and interest by the old and excellent device of the bay window, and the architects clearly appreciated that the building will always be seen at an angle.

Another happy device exploits the acute corner with Denman Street. Here is a feature which has its origins in both the heroic pioneer days of the Modern Movement, and which yet recalls a Victorian corner treatment: a curved glass wall enclosing a circular staircase which rises almost the whole height of the building. This adds that often bogus element of "excitement" with which modern architects always justify their work, but it comes within a design which is sober, rational and - again - in harmony with its neighbours. Sir Philip Powell and

his team have designed one of the best modern buildings in London.

Further up Shaftesbury Avenue, however, is an example of what happens when an architect responds to planning controls in a cynical rather than a constructive spirit. Enough has now risen of the new fire station block opposite the Palace Theatre to appreciate the character of the design.

It has a red brick wall with dull windows arranged between projecting string-courses, and its long length is relieved only by half-hearted projecting bays. At the corners, this vaguely Tudor style expresses itself in feeble turrets, supported on cantilevered-out concrete bases which, maddeningly, do not correspond with the line of the concrete linted above.

This design, which makes a minimal concession to the notion of responding to the Victorian character of Shaftesbury Avenue, is the work of Richard Siefert & Partners, a firm celebrated for its ability to take full advantage of the planning laws, and whose production encompasses every style fashionable since the last war. Sometimes Siefert's modern work is good, as with Centre Point, but now that a degree of traditionalism is the order of the day, he has produced a grudging and cynical essay in a sort of "post-Modernism".

Even this practice has its virtues, however. It follows the concave line of the street; it uses a mellow red brick (though Colcutt's Theatre over the road shows how broad masses of brick are better relieved with terracotta) and there is some attempt to give the facade a more varied character.

Michael Manser maintains that "essential freedom of expression [is] now denied and our street scenes are beginning to look dull and lifeless for its lack." Pace Mr Manser, these three new buildings are responses to the planning laws and the present climate of opinion, and they have greatly enhanced Shaftesbury Avenue as a street. And two out of the three make me optimistic about the state of the art of architecture.

Gavin Stamp

There's life in the old idiom yet

New words and new meanings by Philip Howard

English idiom is changing all the time; which must be one of the *raison d'être* for this occasional series. At the same time much English idiom is remarkably durable, and older than we think. This was dramatised for anybody who went to see *The Relapse*, or *Virtue in Danger* by Sir John Vanbrugh at the Lyric Hammersmith. Apart from the pleasure of the extraordinary vowel sound of Simon Callow turning Sir Novelty Fashion, newly created Lord Poppington, into one of the comic roles of the English stage, one sat up all the time with a start to hear a catch phrase or an idiom that sounded too modern for a piece written in the seventeenth century.

"Virtue is its own reward," says somebody, sententiously. "That's funny," one muses. "I should have guessed Dickens, or one of the other Victorian moralists as the originator

of that smug platitude." So one looks it up, and discovers that it is far older than Vanbrugh. It is recorded in English in 1509 in Barclay's *Ship of Fools*: "Virtue hath no reward." But you can take it back 15 centuries earlier than that. Ovid (who else?) *Præsum sibi virtus*, or, as we say in the trade, "Virtue is its own reward." Vanbrugh was using a proverbial cliché with moths and rust on.

A bit later in the *Relapse* somebody says: "That's thinking half-seas over", and we sit up again. In this case Vanbrugh was one of the earliest to use the phrase metaphorically in a transferred sense. But half-seas over had been around as a literal idiom for a century and a half before that. Raleigh himself, that great half-seas over scound, used it,

when he wrote of sailors riding it out at anchor, "half-seas over between England and Ireland".

A little later, in the *Relapse*, one of those seventeenth-century comedians remarks: "So, matters go swimmingly." You could still say, "Oh, things are going swimmingly today, without sounding hopelessly old-fashioned. So you look it up, and discover that things had been going swimmingly long before Vanbrugh used it as contemporary slang in his play, which means that fashionable people had been using the vogue commendatory adverb for even longer, before anybody thought of writing it down. It is not the case that there is nothing new under the sun in language. But slang is often older than it seems.

"I don't mind if I do!", which

Tommy Handley turned into a raging catch phrase in *Itina*, was actually a revival of a saying that had been around since circa 1700. The criminal and disaffected characters had been calling police officers "pigs" for two centuries before the young of the Demonstration Generation rediscovered the slang in the 1960s.

"My feet are killing me" is at least a century old. "I'll have your guts for garters" may sound like a twentieth-century coinage by a sergeant-major. It has a long literary history, going back at least to Robert Greene's *James the Fourth*, 1598: "I'll make garters of thy guts, thou villain."

We are continually using what we think are new words for old. But quite often they are not as new as we suppose.

Julie Davidson

A guilty first foot in familiar Fenland

They will not be dancing in the streets of Alba tonight. But grimly, desperately like a band of crusaders cursed with a cause they can't deny, they will still be seeking the holy grail of hogmanay. Thousands will come home for it, millions will wait for it, and most will lift the precious chalice to their lips and taste a bitter brew - predominantly alcoholic but tainted with the gall of failed expectations.

The Scottish New Year isn't what it used to be. The traditions of domestic renewal of warmth of the hearth and fare for the pantry have been scattered with the diaspora of the extended family. First foots go by car now, edgily, feeling the pant of the breathalyser on their necks. In their sheltered houses old ladies sit up until three in the morning waiting to offer sweet sherry and black buns to visitors who never come, and the midnight crowds who gather in the city squares are young and dangerous or old and homeless. The bells have a hollow ring. The grail has the look of base metal. At least so they tell us. As Scots living in Scotland we ought to know, but sniffing the way the wind was blowing we cancelled hogmanay six years ago and ever since have sneaked over the border on December 31 to raid the English for some seasonal optimism.

We don't just go to England. We go to the opposite end and the other extreme. We abandon our bumpy little country with its manic depressive landscape, its peaks and its troughs and its spiky historical topography for the linear province of East Anglia. We take measured strides across the Norfolk steppes, where the drinking and the thinking is as slow and practical as dyke water and where the land is deceptively stable, like a flat calm before a tidal wave. This will be our seventh hogmanay in the Fens, our seventh midnight watch spent below the level of the sea in the company of fair friends and strange fowl.

At dusk the huge, blowy fenland skies shred themselves into flakes of feather and the bewicks and the whoopers and the mute swans sidleslip over the cottage and into the Wildfowl Trust's refuge at Welney. At midnight when we open the door to the new year, the woeeful honking of geese sounds a reproach. We, too, are refugees from the north, making an allegory of our journey. We have exchanged (to paraphrase the parable) the narrow, difficult path to Scots damnation for the broad and easy road to English salvation.

We have swapped firewater for

log fires, pub crawls for country walks and hangovers for heavy breakfasts. We have traded the folk memories of Flodden for the cooperative lore of the Fens and rejected a lost land for a reclaimed one. Sometimes on the flight south we leave the A697 and the car and climb a clay path to Branton Hill, where, four centuries ago, the English and Scots soldiers cast off their shoes to grip the slope. This turnip field is Flodden Field and the granite cross at its crest says simply: "To the Brave of Both Nations". We salute one as we desert the other.

There are few signposts to allegory on the A1. The monstrous cooling towers of Ferrybridge, perhaps, before the land begins to sort itself into the orderly contours of the south. England, unlike Scotland, conceals itself from its arterial roads and the Fens conceal themselves even more cleverly, their character camouflaged by flatness. The road from Wisbech, in the dark, is a glimmer of light on geometrical water and now and then the sudden solid shape of unnatural river banks.

This year the subtle landscape has a literary topicality. "And what are the Fens, which so imitate in their levelness the natural disposition of water, but a landscape which of all landscapes most approximates to 'Nothing'." In *Waterland* Graham Swift has thus described the view from the rear of the cottage, although if you strain your eyes on a clear day you can just identify the tiny silhouette of Ely cathedral 15 miles away.

At the front windows a sculptured heap of earth contains the Old Bedford River. "This Fenland," says Swift, "this palpable earth raised out of the flood by centuries of toil... is a magical, a miraculous land."

And so it seemed on New Year's Eve with friends, magically renewed and our own traditions, our ritual of seven Fenland hogmanays miraculously preserved: the baggis-and-phantom dinner, the tall dark Scotsman at the door at midnight, coal and herring in hand, the children sleeping like sparrows below the rafters, the watchnight sounds of three thousand swans.

But when the clock strikes and the television begins to parade its ghastly tartan travesty of the old festival we feel the jagged texture of guilt among the soft and smooth stuff of our contentment. We know that when we breast the border on the way home we feel a tug of love for the neglected one; and brace ourselves to face the accusations of those who feel we have betrayed her.



Taking a bow: Dietrich, Nureyev and the Queen Mother

Roy Strong

Perfecting life's curtain calls

It is sometimes regrettably true that curtain calls can be more interesting than the two or three hours which precede them. Few things are more fascinating than watching the reactions of people who are the subject of applause. How surprising it must be for those, like the Princess of Wales, who suddenly graduate into the league of being able to evoke a state of instant euphoria in everyone without apparently having done a thing.

Two masters of the theatrical curtain call are Nureyev and Sir Frederick Ashton. Nureyev one remembers as just standing there alone in the silver of the stage, rather far back. He can walk forward but he is usually motionless apart from the bow of the head and, from time to time, the ultimate gesture of drawing, with one sweep of his right arm, the whole audience to him, extending his hand across his heart. Ashton is far more complex, beginning *piano* by being drawn in from the wings by a ballerina. This rather coy opening as the tidal wave of applause washes over him leads to a succession of stylized hand movements like the petals of an exotic blossom opening and closing in response to some unknown source of titillation. Even when he embraces on stage, the faces of the recipients are cupped between a sinuous arrangement of both hands.

Dietrich's curtain calls must have been rehearsed down to the last detail. Like Nureyev she stood alone, using very few movements, seemingly a statue entrapped in a sea of waves of silver fur lapels around her feet. There was the languorous hint of exhaustion of an ambiguous kind and the head of hair, of a colour, as was said of the first Elizabeth, of a colour never known to nature, raised and lowered itself as though achieved by some invisible mechanism.

In these instances of theatre the control of illusion by way of the curtain and fall of light is critical. In the concert hall the approach has to be more prosy and is all coming and going. In only one instance have I witnessed that same sense of

brilliant calculation. Herbert von Karajan came and went, seemingly impervious to the rapture he evoked, and then, in a final gesture, he stroled on wearing his overcoat, carrying his hat and walking stick. And that was that.

The fact of the matter is that these ritual exhibitions give as much pleasure to the audience as to the object of adoration. Acclamation of heroes and heroines fulfils a basic instinct in human nature. Only in time of war or great crisis does it ever extend into the political arena in this country where there is a fundamental distaste for the fascist cult of the leader in vast stage-managed spectacles. The British are able to channel that impulse around members of the Royal Family.

Whether they like it or not, all members are cast, as James I wrote, as actors upon a stage whose tiniest gesture is observed. Their public life is one long curtain call which must be responded to by movement of the body and facial expression. None has eclipsed the Queen Mother as the mistress of this art, knowing the exact moment when to acknowledge the crowd by a lift of her arm or when suddenly to look back at them.

I was never more struck by this artistry than at the gala for her eightieth birthday at Covent Garden. After the interval she seemed to vanish from the grand tier. The audience began to wonder what had happened when suddenly a beam of light fell on the old royal box and a glowing figure slowly advanced, alone, to what became a tumult. As I looked I was reminded of Graham Robertson's famous description of Ellen Terry trying to arrive at a party unnoticed but in effect making an entrance like a sunrise.

The exponents of this art are few. They have the ability to seize hold of that magic moment when the routine acknowledgment of applause lifts itself by a kind of empathy into an art form of its own, leaving an indelible impression on the fortunate spectator.

Sir Roy Strong is director of the Victoria & Albert Museum.



Theatrical masters: von Karajan, Terry and Sir Frederick Ashton



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

1984 SPEAK

The principal message in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four* is about the use and abuse of language for political purposes. The dawn of the title year has precipitated a crop of structural comparisons between the state of 1984 which will witness in fact tomorrow morning, and the conditions of society portrayed in the triangular world of dictatorship of Orwell's novel. But Orwell was less concerned with political structure than with words.

In an important appendix to the book he described the principles of Newspeak, the idea which forms the intellectual and cultural heart of the work. Newspeak, according to one of its practitioners, was intended to "Narrow the range of thought" until "thoughtcrime" (independent thinking of any kind) would be "literally impossible because there will be no words in which to express it". It meant that every year there would be fewer and fewer words in the vocabulary, and thus the range of consciousness would always be a little smaller. Significantly, Orwell's appendix made clear that by 1984 only the most urgent deprecations had been made on the language. The terminal lobotomy of the English mind, for political purposes, was not to have been completed until 2050. By then every vestige of the variety and richness of our language would have been fully eliminated from speech and literature, rendering free thinking and free speech, which had been criminal, literally impossible. A veritable gulag of the mind.

Touchstone

As we approach 1984 nobody can ignore the fact that we are on our way both by design and by default to a progressive and irreversible deterioration in the use of language. Language is to public discourse and private morality what a sound currency is to economic stability: once it is subverted, society will lose its touchstone, and even its symbols and myths which are normally conveyed through words and are part of every society's self-consciousness.

It is a characteristic of every age to decay a decline in standards. But the decline in respect for language, and its subversion by some and traduced by many others, has a particular warning for us because it will diminish and ultimately destroy our ability to perceive that standards - any standards - are declining because without language those standards will no longer be capable of just expression or fair evaluation. Solzhenitsyn is not the only one to have noticed this decline. However, he is one of the few who have witnessed the twin motors of degeneration; the abuse by design in the totalitarian world from which he was exiled, and by default in the liberal world whose light shone at him from afar, only to dim when on closer inspection he discovered its canker of doubt and self-destruction within.

We know that it is the purpose of Marxism-Leninism to subordinate everything - even words - to the interest of the Communist party. We have their word for it, year after year. We can listen to Mr Brezhnev recalling Lenin's words that "in our society everything that serves to build up Communism is moral". He paraphrased that by saying that "Everything serving the interest of people in building up Communism is democratic". What more categorical intention ultimately to destroy language and meaning, and what more immediate demonstration of the actual destruction of the meaning of two key words - moral and democratic - could there be than that?

Moreover we should not belittle the subversive effect of Marxist techniques to sustain and persist with the use of vague and meaningless terminology whose interpretation can be varied in different circumstances and adapted to the use of specific goals, by divorcing words from their accepted meaning and by ceaseless repetition of demonstrably untrue statements. What is the need to lie openly, when

truth, well doctored, gelded and shrewdly distributed, will serve the same purpose? It was Trollope who said that there is no villainy to which education cannot reconcile us. If education corrupts, can ceaseless propaganda be far behind?

It has already cast an effective spell within the Soviet system. As Adam Michnik, the Polish dissident, has observed, it corrodes a society which is deprived of the meaning of words, and thus of its critical faculty and the alternative concepts necessary to validate true criticism. "I believe that a dispute about language is the central element of Polish intellectual life for the last 35 years," he has said. "It is about our ability to defend reality and to communicate with each other. In that period a great many of our society have lost their ability to communicate because of the language foisted upon them."

In the subsoil of a pluralist society lie the roots of individual freedom and morality. They are nourished by the gentle rain of a million words and ideas. No rain; no roots. No words; no freedom.

We know that Marxism-Leninism adapts and promotes any misuse of language if it contributes to the ultimate political goal. We know that systematic discussion and criticism is impossible if demonstrable falsehoods are deemed admissible - persistently so - because of their political purpose. We know there is a conspiracy to corrupt, subvert and ultimately destroy the "bourgeois language" because Lenin warned us of its intention. What is harder to recognise and harder still to cope with is the widespread indigenous debasement of our language which cannot be attributed to some clearly defined external conspiracy and ideological assault. It happens pervasively nonetheless. Its practitioners include some intellectuals; their calling should be to act as custodians of the language rather than as instruments of its corruption.

Where freedom to use a rich vocabulary is still available in pluralist society, why do so many intellectuals prefer to avoid the language of direct meaning in favour of imprecision or even the language of illusion? A common attitude to criticism of orthodox intellectual positions or received policies is that it does not help in the solution of some cognate problem as though, if something is bad, it is believed better not to say so unless one can do better. There is almost always the unspoken but implicit assumption that if something is bad it is easily rectifiable, seldom true. These intellectuals tend to define things not by what they are, but by what they are not and ought to be, so that they can claim that intellectual criticism is only justifiable as a preparation for doing something about it.

Manipulation

This condition is at its most pervasive in the social sciences, and any discipline relating to the study of economics. But it does not stop there. There is a progressive use of vague abstract concepts such as equality, discrimination, stabilization, interdependence and so on which are susceptible to often incompatible interpretation. As Popper observed, these methods are intended "through a conscious manipulation of facts and minds", to substantiate wholly invalid historical predictions about the future, particularly in periods of rapid social change or apprehension. These predictions are then amplified by appeals to the emotions which deny logical refutation.

There is a tendency to depersonalize and therefore to politicize private conditions affecting individuals. We have the politicization of sexuality and homosexuality, of marriage and divorce, of the status of women, of parental authority. The family, which is to be a living organism of infinite variety, good and bad, is treated as an abstraction, a mere index for social determinants. These tendencies should not be seen as

evidence of a Leninist conspiracy. They are more likely to spring from a reaction to it among intellectuals who, though seduced by the magnetic power of Marxist certainty and dogmatism, are searching themselves for a meaning in the secular Western society of today. They are desperate to match Marxist certainty with a counter truth equally categorical, but equally unsatisfactory. LeBon, in *The Psychology of Socialism*, wrote: "Hitherto man has been unable to live without divinities. They fall often from their throne, but that throne has never remained empty." According to Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the scourge and demon of American intellectuals, "Today's secular society has produced its own secular priesthood in the verbalizing classes". The wish for political change in which society is transformed to fit preconceived notions of political good bestows on intellectuals an especially important role in which they interpret reality on the way to the Utopian vision. These people are not for certainties but wantonly cool about the consequences. In vain the cry of the Czech author who wrote "You can't build Utopia without terror, and before long terror is all that is left". Where is to be found the classless society without its terrorist truth?

Happy total

In their desperation to merge the real and the ideal the Utopians succumb to the mystique of revolutionary violence - the violence of the best intentions. Their attitude was succinctly illustrated by Stephen Spender as "as some day, somewhere everything would add up to the happy total... The argument of an abstract sum held in one's mind which cancelled out all lesser considerations."

So, will Orwell's prediction of the debasement of language occur not from a Marxist conspiracy but from a self-inflicted wound? Will the decline and even extinction of our culture be achieved by "committed writers" described by H. G. Wells as "not men; but mere footnotes to reality"? Will they be driven by their propensity for abstract thinking in order to find goals in an abstraction, regardless of their lack of connection with mundane reality? We must see that Orwell's warning does not turn into a prophecy.

"The genuine intellectual", wrote Hans Morgenthau the American scholar, "must speak truth to power." No; because to do so is to fall victim to the illusion that he has a superior truth when all he can and should do is to point out that power has no more prescriptive truth behind it than the rest of us. A society, like an individual, is above all the idea which its members form of itself. This idea is not simply the product of the ideas merchants, but is based on many other things, in which words, images, myths and mysteries all combine and confound attempts to be codified by unitarians in search of the master code.

What if there is no single reality, but only, as Dr Alan McGlashan the London psychiatrist suggests in his book *Gravity and Levity*, a reality "always and everywhere ambiguous, paradoxical, open-ended", resting on an endlessly elusive balance of contraries? Man would then be free to commit himself totally, without anxiety, to whatever reveals itself as truth to him, in recognition of all life's other possibilities. "Life is not a series of problems," said the French philosopher Gabriel Marcel. "It is a network of mysteries." There is no place, no need, and no possibility for Newspeak in a society which has come to terms with the world's paradoxes and its mysteries. It would need more not fewer words then to help navigate such a momentous journey through time. It is not the Orwellian nightmare which should be upon us tonight as the bells ring in 1984; only life's eternal dream which bridges the differences between ourselves and what we seek.

not new here or in America. There, with the state ones, there was, until its recent extinction, the Federal Power Commission, which those of us privileged to see it at work found well protected the widest public interest, consumers and others alike. Here in gas the public interest in recent years has tended to be submerged equally by over-large centralised administration as by the use of the industry as a backdoor regulator of the economy and tax collector. Yours faithfully, T. MERVYN JONES, ERM HIR, 38 Fairwater Road, Llandaff, Cardiff.

Educating judges and barristers

From his Honour Judge Head
Sir, Only with a difference which is all the greater for being rooted in an affectionate admiration not only for Lord Justice Lawton's own learning but for all that he has done for the law and the Bar dare I suggest that the fifth paragraph of his letter, published on December 27, proceeds upon a misconception.

I am one of those county court judges, without an academic background in law, who wrapped a wet towel round his head for 18 months in order to pass the Bar exams - in my case after a degree in modern languages and a cadetship in the Royal Navy. I cannot deny that I might be a better judge if I were more intelligent and a profounder lawyer; but I cannot see what contribution to my present work would have been made by a three or four-year study of law in the 1940s, for much of the law which I have to administer has been changed since that time and indeed continues to be changed, most of it since my appointment in 1971.

The law of divorce which takes up much of my time has been so revolutionized that the learning of 1947, when I was called, is now useless if not downright dangerous. Contract has encountered much judicial interpretation as well as the busy hand of the parliamentary draftsman, especially in the realms of hire-purchase and consumer credit, those staples of the county court.

Torts have been altered in many respects, by statutes such as the Occupier's Liability Act, the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act, and the Acts dealing with animals; and by judicial reconsideration of such doctrines as the remoteness of damage and the limitation of actions, all good county court stuff.

Yet again, those staples of county court litigation, housing and the Rent Acts have been kaleidoscopic in their changes as they have been buffeted by the waves of circumstance, legislation and interpretation.

If the county court judge is to keep abreast of current law, what he needs more than a good legal education is a good legal library, kept up to date, and the time to read it.

Having said all that, I must add that, while so many litigants in the county court may need such learning as we have, they also want to feel that their problems can be understood in human terms: often the past experiences of being a farmer and director of a small company and the engineering training that used to be given to naval cadets as well as the present joys of being a parent and grandparent have given me a livelier awareness of the problem before me than my pre-1947 legal studies, such as they were.

I fancy that no one who has read a number of Lord Justice Lawton's own judgments would for a moment think that the rather realistic approach of my last paragraph is in any way foreign to his own mind; and I always treasure the recollection of his words in a judgment in an action in which I had the privilege of appearing before him when he was a puisne judge: "Everyone knows that, in a small business, one of the most useful assets is the will..."

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,
ADRIAN HEAD,
Overy Staithe,
Kings Lynn,
Norfolk.
December 29.

Library sponsorship

From Mr Frederick Oughton
Sir, Lord Gownie's suggestion (report, December 20) that public libraries should look into the possibilities of private sponsorship brings the wheels full turn. Many of these institutions were originally endowed by Andrew Carnegie from a fortune made in steel.

The most obvious source of sponsorship is the publishing industry (report, December 20) that public libraries should look into the possibilities of private sponsorship brings the wheels full turn. Many of these institutions were originally endowed by Andrew Carnegie from a fortune made in steel.

This would ensure an improved stocking of the new titles which public libraries cannot currently afford due to expenditure cuts.

Apart from publishers, other factions may become sponsors, including the paper, printing and binding industries.

While hands may well be raised in horror within the business sectors I have mentioned, it is perhaps appropriate to point out that there could well be considerable tax advantages in the endowment or sponsorship arrangement.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK OUGHTON,
15 Princes Road, Ealing, W13.
December 20.

Sobering thought

From Mr Robin Gwynn
Sir, Your front-page article today (December 27) reports that of 2,337 breath tests in Nottinghamshire, "only 40 results were positive". Are the Nottinghamshire Constabulary particularly unskilled at accurately spotting suspected drunken drivers, or are they simply wasting a lot of sober motorists' time? Yours faithfully, ROBIN GWYNN, 65 South Hill Road, Bromley, Kent.
December 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taking advantage of Eagle Star

From Mr R. C. Howroyd
Sir, As a general manager of Eagle Star, I wish to express my dismay at the procedure imposed by the Takeover Panel for auctioning the company.

I have worked for the Eagle Star for many years; many of my colleagues have served the company even longer, perhaps for their whole working life. The immense value now being placed upon Eagle Star shares must, in substantial measure, be the result of our efforts and skill over the years. But now we face the certain prospect of the company being "knocked down" to the highest bidder, without regard to the interests of policyholders, staff or nation.

How can it be right that the only interest to be taken into account is the securing of the maximum profit for hordes of speculators, none of whom, with trivial exception, have made any contribution to the company and whose only interest in it is the prospect of a quick capital gain?

How can it be right that employees, such as myself, who are chained to the company by the pension rights that our years of service have earned, should have no voice in a process under which our skills and talents, our enthusiasm and loyalty, are sold as property rights to whoever blindly pays the most?

One understands that the shareholders are the owners of the business and no one sensibly begrudges them the profits of the enterprise or the chance, over a period of time, to sell their shares at a profit, but the subscribed capital is only one element in the success of a modern business and in our present-day society it is a legal anachronism that the shareholders of a great company employing thousands of

staff, whose name is a household word, and which can trace its origins back for almost 180 years, should be entitled to sell the company, without any form of consultation with management, customers or staff.

I was surprised when the Minister for Trade and Industry decided not to refer the Eagle Star takeover bids to the Monopolies Commission. One understands the Government's commitment to free enterprise, but surely, in the long run, it will not help this country to recover its entrepreneurial spirit if our great composite insurance companies, with their accumulated policyholder reserves, are allowed to be knocked down, like second-hand war surplus, at auctions that pay no regard to the wishes of the company's management and board and that totally ignore the interests of customers and staff.

Through your columns, I ask the Minister for Trade and Industry to reconsider the decision of his predecessor and I believe that the farcical situation that has now arisen gives him this right.

The grounds are obvious; if an insurance company can be swallowed whole by a company's hungry predator willing to pay unprecedented sums to secure ownership of the company's accumulated reserves the logical outcome must be weaker insurance companies. For how can management build up strong reserves, which are the essential prerequisite of a sound insurance operation, if the only result of added strength is to make the company a richer prize? How can this be in the interest of the nation? Yours faithfully, R. C. HOWROYD, Rest Harrow, Round Street, Cobham, Kent.

IRA and civil rights

From Mr Ben Ward
Sir, I am surprised to see Lord Hunt's declaration (December 22) that the IRA was not actively involved in the civil rights movement in 1969.

I have before me an account, published by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, which seems to refute that allegation. The association was formed on January 29, 1967.

One of the 13-member committee elected at that founding meeting to draw up a draft constitution for the association and a programme of campaign for civil rights was Billy McMillen, representing the Republican Clubs, a legal organization of the proscribed IRA.

Under the impact of the violent attacks on peaceful civil rights marches by the police, and loyalist gangs incited by Unionist politicians, the IRA split, in the period late 1969 to early 1970, into the Official and Provisional IRA. The Official IRA, now the Workers' Party, was composed of those who believed that the IRA

should persist in peaceful campaigning for civil rights and democracy in Northern Ireland, in the further belief that the achievement of these goals would end the sectarian division in Northern Ireland.

The Provisionals were those who argued that the violence being used against civil rights marchers proved that there is no peaceful road as long as the British are in Ireland.

Billy McMillen, who was assassinated in 1975, was, at the time of his death, the O. Belfast Command Staff of the IRA and a member of the executive committee of Official Sinn Féin.

The bomb that exploded outside Harrods was planted by members of the Provisional IRA. Lord Hunt's brief reference seems to me, by its simplicity, to bury the truth for those less well informed than himself and I hope that he will return to this matter at greater length.

Yours sincerely,
BERT WARD, Secretary,
Irish Advisory Committee,
Communist Party of Great Britain,
16 St John Street, EC1.
December 22.

London's buildings

From Mr Peter Carson and others

Sir, We should like to add our voices to the plea made by Professor Maurice Barley and others in their letter of December 21 for the retention of the Greater London Council Historic Buildings Division in its present form.

It is a measure of the imaginative and flexible approach of the division that it does not confine its activities to the very necessary provision of specialist knowledge in a form that can be appreciated by the intelligent layman as great now as it was when it inspired Allen Lane in the early years of Penguin Books.

The happy cooperation between the Greater London Council and Penguin Books over the *Buildings of England* (London 2 South) being the first of three volumes which will cover the Greater London suburbs is just one example of the many ways in which the division is able to increase public interest in and awareness of the richness and diversity of London's historic buildings.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CARSON, Editorial Director,
Penguin Books,
JOHN NEWMAN, Consultant Editor,
Buildings of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales,
BRIDGET CHERRY, Editor,
Buildings of England,
Penguin Books Ltd,
236 King's Road, SW10.
December 22.

Places where they sing

From Mrs M. Gwynnell

Sir, I wonder whether Mr Peter Hannigan (December 27), who wishes to boost the number of candidates for our country's choir schools, has ever seriously considered admitting girls as choristers, thereby immediately doubling the number of potential candidates.

Quite apart from its discriminatory element, the exclusion of girls from our choir schools is as much to the detriment of the schools themselves as the girls.

As more and more parents are favouring co-education for their children, a choir school admitting girls alongside boys would inevitably attract more boy applicants into the choir.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA M. GWYNNE,
3 Alameda Street, N1.
December 27.

Backward glance

From Mr L. C. B. Seaman

Sir, I have for several years been looking forward to the real and distinct from the Orwellian, 1984 and not only because it will mark the bicentenary of the birth of that least Victorian of Victorians, Lord Palmerston. For 1984 will also see the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of my paternal great-grandfather.

In consequence, though a mere septuagenarian, I can truthfully say that my grandfather was already 19 when Queen Victoria was crowned, and that I knew in my youth a lady who had known, in the 1850s, a lady who, in her own youth, had known a lady who had danced with Prince Charles Edward in Edinburgh at the time of the Jacobite rising of 1745. I am sure, Sir, that among my elders you have readers who can claim similar personal links with

Watchful eyes on the pound

From Mr A. B. Purbrick
Sir, If you had pushed your reasoning for the crumpled pound note (leading article, December 23) a little further it would have become clear that a reform of the coinage is inevitable.

A plausible long-term rate of inflation might be six per cent. This also conveniently tells us that by the "rule of 72" the pound will be worth 50p in 12 years and 25p in 24 years at today's prices. At that rate the round pound seems to be a reasonably sized coin, but by then the 50p coin will look silly and the 10p coin ludicrous.

The decimalization of the currency hid the need to reform the coinage anyway. This gambit will not be available another time. Clinging to a fistful of crumpled paper may suit the foreseeable future of a nation of museum-keepers. But it would be as well to preserve a few £5 notes brand new in plastic because they will be the next to go. Yours etc, A. B. PURBRICK, 28 Doverhouse Road, SW15, December 24.

From Lord Sligo
Sir, Congratulations to the Government on phasing out the pound note - so easily mixed up with paper handkerchiefs.

One suggestion: Could not the admirable coin be more "golden"? There would be no extra cost for a new alloy and the blind would still benefit from its thickness. Incidentally, it would more nearly resemble in appearance the sovereignty of my childhood and in a bad light be easier to distinguish from the 5p piece. A few in my pocket makes me feel quite rich, without weighing me down. Just one buys a pint and an evening paper. Long may it last! Yours etc, LORD SLIGO, House of Lords, December 28.

From Mr Geoffrey Sampson
Sir, On Wednesday the MP for Shireley announced (report, December 23) that the pound note is "central to everything" and begged for Treasury assurance that it would live: you devote today's first leader to it (December 23).

What has happened to a sense of proportion? And am I the only citizen who finds the new coins far more convenient than notes? Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY SAMPSON, Richmond House, Ingleton, via Carnforth, Lancashire, December 23.

Personality change
From Mr Alexander H. Shand
Sir, The Reverend Canon Grimwade is mistaken in thinking (December 28) that there are implications of an inconsistency in Government welfare policy in the fact of Mrs Thatcher's choice of Mother Teresa.

Mrs Thatcher has never been opposed to genuine altruism so far as I know. What she is somewhat more opposed to than many other politicians is taking money off A (by Government-applied coercion) and deciding that B will be given it.

Does the reverend canon tax his congregation in order to raise a fund out of which he dispenses benefits to good causes of his choice? Neither does Mother Teresa. Yours faithfully, ALEXANDER H. SHAND, Manchester Polytechnic, Faculty of Management & Business, Department of Economics & Economic History, Aytoun Street, Manchester, December 28.

Pastis master

From Sir Robin Hooper
Sir, Having had some experience of both, I have been fascinated by your recent preoccupation with Lysanders and the production in France of illicit hooch (articles by Mr Paul Pickering, November 3 and Mr John P. Harris, December 15).

My wife and I have just returned from the farmhouse in southern France where we were celebrating the fortieth anniversary of my arrival there after bogging an aircraft on a rain-soaked field. Among the goodies with which my infinitely kind and courageous hosts regaled me was home-made pastis.

Procurement, in those days, was slightly different. You could get essence of aniseed from the chemist; but the alcohol came from a neighbour's (probably illegal) still. The technique of production was, however, almost exactly the same: less athletic, perhaps, than cassimaking as so hilariously described by Mr Pickering, but quite as gratifying in its end result.

Those who remember life under the fascist baton of Marshal Pétain may recall how the Vichyites went on and on about how strong aperitifs had rotted not only the guts but also the moral fibre of the nation, thus bringing about the defeat of 1940 and forcing the father of his people to ban pastis and similar delights.

The truth of the matter, as everybody of course knew, was that the Marshal's government were busy handing over all the alcohol of which they were made to German industry. To drink pastis thus became almost a patriotic duty, and to make it almost an act of resistance - an act in which no one indulged more enthusiastically than Yours faithfully, ROBIN HOOPER, Brook House, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, December 17.

Gas industry reform

From Mr T. Mervyn Jones

Sir, Kenneth Hutchinson's letter (December 22) must command the serious attention of all concerned for the prosperity and better being of the public sector in our economy in general and the gas industry in particular.

Area boards in the past pioneered the most significant of modern gas developments. His own, the South-east, led in new methods of gas-making and with the close collaboration of his colleague, Sir Michael Milne-Watson, of North Thames board, the first bringing into Britain of methane for public gas supply. For good measure he and his

board nurtured Sir Dennis Rooke, the present admirable Chairman of the British Gas Corporation.

Our Wales Board was responsible for the introduction to Britain of high-pressure pipe lining, on which the whole present distribution of North Sea gas is based, in spite of the gloomy predictions of the central establishment that we would surely fail; and at the same time achieved gas's first breakthrough into the profitable space-heating market.

So Sir Kenneth's proposal to reintroduce an area board authority makes commercial sense; just as his supply corporation makes engineering sense, as has been found for electricity generation.

The idea of an independent regulatory commission, as he said, is

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Year-end investment fling

ACCOUNT DAY Dealings began, Dec. 30. Dealings end, Jan. 13. Contango Day, Jan. 16. Settlement Day, Jan. 23.

It looks as though 1983 will prove a difficult act to follow in the stock market, but yesterday investors were prepared to give the new year the benefit of the doubt.

The new account on the last full trading day of the year again saw the equity market prepared to equal its previous best — albeit briefly — as investors hoped remained high that 1984 would prove as lucrative as 1983. The FT Index improved throughout the morning session to equal its record of 776.2 achieved last week, but failed to hold its best levels closing 3.2 up at 775.7.

The latest events in the long-running battle for control of Eagle Star captured the imagination of most investors, but failed to spark much interest among the rest of the companies. Commercial Union slipped 4p to 178p, General Accident 5p to 448p, Guardian Royal 5p to 513p, Royal Insurance 8p to 485p and Sun Alliance 10p to £14.17.

Dealers are now placing their money on Phoenix Assurance, 1p off at 375p, should Alliance decide to divert its attention elsewhere once the battle for Eagle Star is over.

Generally, turnover remained at a low ebb as dealers departed for home before the close of business. Gilt sales stirred from their overnight positions, despite the continued revival in the fortune of the pound against the dollar on the foreign exchange.

The death yesterday of Mr Gordon Billam, chairman of J. Billam, the Sheffield-based metal basher, may signal the start of a battle for control of the company. The shares responded to the news with a leap of 17p to a new high of 60p after taking into account that Mr Billam owned 51 per cent of the equity. At this level the entire group is valued at £900,000 and boasts assets of almost 100p a share.

In the leaders, Distillers put up a convincing performance in ex-div form, rising 4p to 244p on a combination of well

thought-out investment support and pure speculation. GEC added 4p to 180p, BOC Group 9p to 297p, on its expansion plans. Grand Metropolitan 4p to 330p and Vickers 4p to 138p.

Oil shares presented a firm appearance still on hopes of a pick-up in demand connected with the freezing weather conditions in the United States. BP was unchanged at 406p, ahead of the final call on the partly paid shares next month, but British added 2p to 200p. Clyde Petroleum 7p to 123p, London & Scottish Marine Oil 5p to 296p, Shell 2p to 568p, and Tricentrol 3p to 181p. The bid approach for Canadex also prompted renewed support for some of the second-line oil exploration groups. Carless Capel rose 12p to 200p. Charterhall 2p to 70p. Charterhouse 4p to 127p. Goal Petroleum 6p to 98p and Premier 1½p to 47p.

Pict Petroleum lost an early

There was a spot of seasonal cheer yesterday from broker Buckmaster & Moore which reports that the demand for beer, wines and spirits over the Christmas period was exceptionally good. The star performer was cider, which saw sales rise by over 27pc during the period. This will come as good news for the sector leaders including H. P. Bulmer, down 5p to 213p, and Merrydown, 5p lower at 350p.

However, after drilling to a depth of 8,300 ft, using the semi-submersible rig, Chris Chenchy, the consortium says it has now taken the decision to suspend work on the well.

Ballair Cosmetics was again the subject of intense speculation that drove the price 107p higher to a peak of 960p, after 970p. This year the shares were changing hands at around 12p. Highgate & Job rose to a new peak of 195p, after 200p, as the battle for control of the company continued. Last week Peachfield, a private company owned by Mark Watson Mitchell, of USM Newsletter fame, announced it had increased its stake in Highgate to just under 30 per cent, leading to speculation that a bid might be imminent. But just a couple of days before Christmas clients of broker Earnshaw Hayes bought 22 per cent of the equity.

Kilnworth Beason spurred 25p to 455p still reflecting the recent abortive dawn raid by Middle Eastern clients of broker L. Messel. Other firm markets included Brouha Shipley 5p to 340p, Hill Samuel 7p to 338p, Murex Securities 10p to 540p.

But among the high street banks profit-taking lopped 4p from Royal Bank of Scotland at 220p. Recently Lloyds Bank, unchanged at 524p, stepped up its holding in the group with the purchase of an extra 4 per cent of the shares.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

DOLLAR STOCKS

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

STERLING: SPOT AND FORWARD

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

Money Market Rates

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

Other Markets

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

Dollar Spot Rates

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

Euro-£ Deposits

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

Gold

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Yield
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5

PROPERTY

Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115a)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115b)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115c)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115d)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115e)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115f)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115g)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115h)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115i)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115j)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115k)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115l)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115m)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115n)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115o)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115p)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115q)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115r)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115s)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115t)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115u)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115v)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115w)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115x)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115y)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115z)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115aa)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ab)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ac)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ad)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ae)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115af)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ag)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ah)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ai)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115aj)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ak)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115al)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115am)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115an)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ao)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ap)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115aq)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ar)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115as)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115at)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115au)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115av)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115aw)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ax)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ay)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115az)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ba)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bb)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bc)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bd)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115be)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bf)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bg)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bh)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bi)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bj)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bk)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bl)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bm)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bn)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bo)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bp)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bq)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115br)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bs)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bt)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bu)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bv)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bw)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bx)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115by)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115bz)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ca)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cb)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cc)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cd)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ce)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cf)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cg)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ch)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ci)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cj)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ck)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cl)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cm)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cn)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115co)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cp)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cq)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cr)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cs)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ct)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cu)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cv)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cw)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cx)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cy)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115cz)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115da)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115db)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dc)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dd)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115de)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115df)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dg)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dh)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115di)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dj)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dk)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dl)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dm)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dn)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115do)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dp)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dq)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dr)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ds)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dt)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115du)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dv)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dw)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dx)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dy)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115dz)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ea)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115eb)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ec)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ed)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ee)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ef)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115eg)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115eh)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ei)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ej)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ek)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115el)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115em)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115en)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115eo)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ep)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115eq)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115er)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115es)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115et)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115eu)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ev)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ew)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ex)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ey)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ez)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fa)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fb)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fc)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fd)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fe)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ff)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fg)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fh)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fi)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fj)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fk)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fl)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fm)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fn)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fo)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fp)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fq)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fr)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fs)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ft)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fu)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fv)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fw)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fx)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fy)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115fz)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ga)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gb)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gc)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gd)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ge)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gf)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gg)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gh)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gi)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gj)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gk)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gl)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gm)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gn)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115go)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gp)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gq)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gr)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gs)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gt)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gu)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gv)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gw)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gx)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gy)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115gz)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ha)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hb)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hc)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hd)	178	+2	10.5
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Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hk)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hl)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hm)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hn)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ho)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hp)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hq)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hr)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hs)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ht)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hu)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hv)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hw)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hx)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hy)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115hz)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ia)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ib)	178	+2	10.5
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Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ih)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ii)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ij)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ik)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115il)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115im)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115in)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115io)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ip)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115iq)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ir)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115is)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115it)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115iu)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115iv)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115iw)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ix)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115iy)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115iz)	178	+2	10.5
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Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115jc)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115jd)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115je)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115jf)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115jg)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115jh)	178	+2	10.5
Anglo Saxon 10p Ord (115ji)	178	+2	10.5

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

P&O wins the 1983 thoroughbred stakes

All week champagne corks have been popping in brokers' offices in celebration of a prosperous 1983 and to greet the new year, which holds promise of more good business to come.

This will be seen as the year Britain finally pulled clear of the recession. Much, if not all, of British industry as emerged more vigorous, leaner and better managed. Along the way there have been casualties, usually companies unable to conform to higher standards of competition, but, by and large, the forecasters paint a rosy picture of prospects.

The FT Index of 30 leading shares, a universally popular although not an accurate guide, ended the year on a high note at 776.2, a rise of over 30 per cent from the figures a year ago. The FT-Actuaries All Share Index also closed 1983 on a firm note, just a couple of points short of its record high and 20 per cent up on a year ago. Despite belief to the contrary, both have outstripped inflation over the past nine years, and the market shows few signs of running out of steam yet.

This year also marked the appearance of American investors in numbers in the London stock market. Their thirst for the blues of our blue chips seemed unquenchable, and this, combined with a stream of takeover situations, has made for a very lively market.

The best performance among the constituents of the FT Index was Peninsula & Oriental's, where the close attention of Mr Nigel Brookes and his colleagues at Trafalgar House and the response of the P&O board, mainly in the shape of a new chairman, Mr Jeffrey Sterling, did the share price nothing but good.

The next scene in this drama will be enacted in the new year when the Monopolies Commission delivers its report, but investors are now looking at P&O in its own right. The shares closed at 249p on Friday, way above Trafalgar's first bid in May, and a rise on the year of 130 per cent.

P&O's nearest rival was London Brick, up 108 per cent at 137p, after Lord Hanson's decision to add it to his buying list.

At the other end of the spectrum, the

disaster story of the year was London & Liverpool Trust. After parting company with its former chairman, Mr Ron Schuck, the board pinned its hopes on another entrepreneur, Mr Jeffrey Bonas, whose Telejector subsidiary, the pub video company, was expected to yield rich pickings. Things turned sour.

Pundits and punters alike are now placing their bets on the leaders and laggards for 1984. If 1983 is anything to go by it should be another interesting race.

British Airways shows strength

Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian, has put up a good case for his independent airline absorbing some of British Airways' prime routes as a precursor to BA's privatization. Not surprisingly, he reserves a pre-Hogmanay snub for Mr Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, who says in *The Director* magazine: "One of the great strengths of British Airways, which needs to be maintained, is its comprehensive route network and structure. It is absolutely essential that it be maintained."

Sir Adam argues that duopoly in the airline business would be better than the near-monopoly enjoyed by British Airways; the Government, keen to see the best possible return from the sale of Lord King's increasingly efficient BA fleet, and the management led by Mr Marshall, are not so sure. Mr Marshall hopes to see "100 per cent of the airline sold. It would be unwise to be neither one thing nor the other."

In a Christmas Eve letter to *The Times*, Lord King underlined his intention not to preside over the dismemberment of the national flag carrier airline "by selling off valuable commercial assets." Any diminution of the BA role would not be in the nation's long-term interests, he said.

Mr Marshall says for good measure: "Our belief, that whatever has to be done in terms of restructuring our balance sheet the Government - and therefore the taxpayer - will get back at least all of the money that will have been put into British Airways and, I hope, a premium on top of that."

LEADERS AND LAGGARDS OF 1983

Company	Closing Price	Gain on year %	Company	Closing Price	Loss on year %
Bellair Cosmetics	853.00	+3608.7	London & L'pool	25.00	-85.4
Dollands Photo	323.00	+1096.3	Newman Inds.	17.00	-78.7
Harold Ingram	245.00	+880.0	Ashley Indl Tet	12.00	-74.5
Kraft Products	195.00	+828.6	Braville Europe	29.00	-72.9
Belgrave (Bikini)	134.00	+793.3	Burnett & Hallams	134.50	-69.5
Tate	88.00	+780.0	Michael Black	40.00	-69.0
Meggitt Hogs	139.00	+531.8	Hongkong Rubber	175.00	-68.2
Bula Resources	37.50	+525.0	Humberts Elect	9.00	-67.8
Pavilion Leisure	80.00	+515.4	Bio-Isolates	88.00	-66.5
Audiotronic Hogs	19.00	+474.8	Nova (Jersey) Knt	30.00	-63.9
Parkfield Fndrs	44.00	+457.3	Comb Tech Corp	21.50	-62.0
Carpets Int	64.00	+455.5	Branch	30.00	-60.0
London Pavilion	13.00	+420.0	Barget	38.00	-56.6
W. E. Norton	14.00	+392.9	London Pte Hth	17.00	-55.3
Fitzwilliam	86.00	+377.8	UEI	141.00	-53.8
H. Young Hldgs	95.00	+352.4	Rockware Group	20.00	-53.5
Executives Clothes	48.00	+336.4	Leisuretime Int	48.00	-54.7
Saxon Oil	245.00	+327.9	Blackwood Hodge	9.00	-52.9
Fleet Holdings	139.00	+317.1	Immediate BS Sys	116.00	-48.1
Garford-Lilly	89.00	+308.3	TSL Thermal Synd	42.00	-47.8
FT 30 Share Index	776.2	+29.12/83	Change	598.9	+28.98
FTA All-Share Index	382.22	+468.89	Change	470.01	+22.68%

By Andrew Cornelius

The two-month battle for control of Eagle Star Holdings, Britain's sixth largest insurer, appears to have ended with a record £966m takeover bid from BAT Industries, the tobacco group.

Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurer, which has been competing with BAT for control of Eagle Star, pulled out of the bidding when BAT made a 700p share takeover offer after discussions between the two sides in Munich on Thursday evening.

Allianz will sell its 30 per cent holding in Eagle, which was acquired at an average price of 30p per share, at a total profit of £163m.

All the parties to the deal declared themselves happy with the outcome of the negotiations, but it is still possible that a mystery bidder will enter the fray before the takeover closing date for the BAT offer terms.

If another bid does emerge,

Allianz accepts BAT's £966m bid for Eagle

Allianz has reserved the right to sell its stake at above the 700p level agreed with BAT. BAT will post full details of its offer to shareholders with a letter from Eagle Star urging them to accept the offer within the next few days.

Eagle Star shares fell from 714p to close at 692p yesterday, while shares of BAT finished 11p up at 179p.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, described the prospect for the group under BAT's ownership as exciting. His personal stake in the company is now worth £3.29m, against £2.7m, when the bidding began with a 500p per share offer from Allianz in October.

Under the terms of the deal struck with BAT the existing Eagle management will continue to run the business. Sir Denis and one other Eagle director will join the BAT board, while Mr Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT and a

THE BIDDING FOR EAGLE STAR

Date	Bidder	Price	% Stake
1/8/81	Allianz	200p	30%
19/10/81	Allianz	300p	100%
2/11/81	BAT	575p	100%
28/11/81	Allianz	650p	100%
28/11/81	BAT	650p	100%
14/12/81	Allianz	650p	100%
14/12/81	BAT	675p	100%
22/12/81	Allianz	675p	100%
30/12/81	BAT	700p	100%

Star once the takeover is formally concluded on January 18.

Allianz said that it had decided to pull out of the bidding ahead of the 4.30pm deadline for final bids set by the Takeover Panel largely because it could not achieve its original aim of gaining a significant stake in Eagle rather than winning full control.

Allianz will use the proceeds from the sale of its holding in Eagle to enhance its capital base.

The profit from the sale of shares which were first acquired in a dawn raid two years ago, also leave the group well positioned to develop other opportunities for international expansion, including further takeover opportunities in the London insurance market.

The fierce bidding for Eagle has led to calls for government guidelines to protect other British composite insurance companies from foreign takeover.

State 'must cut levies on industry'

By David Young

Costs imposed on industry by central and local government must be cut if the economic recovery started in 1983 is to be sustained, Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday.

Sir Terence, in an end-of-year message, also said that prices must be held down by keeping wage settlements down.

"That is paramount in the battle against inflation," he said.

For much of industry and commerce the situation was still "fragile", he said. "My greatest concern is that the recovery should be sustained. There is a long way to go: there are still more than 3 million people in Britain without jobs. If we are to help them to find work we must do everything we can to ensure that British products and services are competitive in world markets - not only in price but in quality, design, performance and in after-sales service."

"We must make the goods that people want, not those we think they ought to have. The bulk of the task is for management, but Government must help by creating the right economic climate."

Candecca in mystery bid talks

By Derek Pain

Shares of Candecca Resources surged 44p to 190p yesterday after Mr Geoffrey Butcher, the chairman, disclosed that bid talks were taking place with "a substantial company not currently a shareholder".

Mr Butcher refused to be drawn on the identity of the possible bidder but in the stock market, Trafalgar House, the hotel, property and shipping group, emerged as the clear favourite.

Esso and Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation are regarded as the other likely candidates.

At 190p a share Candecca commands a stock market value of £75m. If, as many suspect, a bidder is forced to pay some 350p a share, then the company's capitalization would be near £100m.

The initial approach occurred "a couple of weeks ago", Mr Butcher said.

Candecca is best known for its string of on shore oil developments, including Humble Grove in Hampshire. But in November it paid £15m for two of the North Sea Forties units which gave it a 0.5 per cent interest in the field. At the same time Trafalgar, which has been busily developing its oil and gas interests, paid \$10m for a 1 per cent share of Forties.

The two biggest shareholders in Candecca are KCA International and Sceptre Resources of Canada. In October KCA acquired an 8 per cent interest in Candecca from Sceptre and took an option on a further 21.9 per cent at 160p a share.

Thames Investment to sue over Miami project

By Jonathan Clare

Thames Investment is planning to take legal action against Mr Tom Whyte, the financier, after his decision to pull out of a £13m property development in Miami, Florida.

Mr Whyte's involvement began in October when he signed an agreement to take over Thames' part in the Miami project, which had been instrumental in the company's loss of almost £5m last year.

But he told Thames on December 23 that he no longer intended to proceed with his side of the bargain. Mr Whyte

Haverford may bid for Tring

A new takeover bid may be on the way for Tring Hall Securities, the controversial group which specialise in bringing companies to the US.

Last night, Haverford Securities, the unquoted investment group headed by Mr Norman Barrington Cork, said it was considering making a fresh offer. Last summer, Haverford was involved in a long and bitter struggle for control of Tring Hall.

No Haverford executive was available yesterday to give details of the proposed offer. In June, Tring Hall lost its licence to deal in securities.

WALL STREET

Dow slips in mixed trading

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Share prices rose in continued light trading yesterday, reversing an opening loss. However, by noon they had slipped again. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was 0.30 points lower at 1259.87.

Advances were about level with falling shares.

AMR Corp was trading at 36, up 1/2, on a volume of 314,300 shares, including a block of 244,000 at 35 1/2, that traded shortly after the opening.

United Airlines was up 1/4 at 36 1/2, and Delta was 1/4 higher at 39 1/2. Pan Am rose 1/2 to 8 1/2.

Some traders are believed to be continuing to adjust their portfolios for the New Year and he engaged in some tax selling. Despite the expected slowdown, 1983 will be the busiest year in the 191-year history of New York Stock Exchange with more than 21 billion shares changing hands. This exceeds 1982's 16.5 billion shares.

Investors who had not already left for the New Year's holiday weekend were likely to be restrained by uncertainty about the Federal Reserve's money supply figures, due out after the market closed.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans week fixed 9
3 month interbank 9 1/2-9 3/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/2-9 3/4
3 month DM 6 5/8
3 month FF 13 1/4-13 1/2
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury long bond 10 1/2-10 3/4
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

\$3.8bn loan reflects Mexico's progress

By John Lawless

Foreign bankers yesterday acknowledged Mexico's recent economic progress with a \$3.8 billion (£2.6 billion) 10-year loan to meet its 1984 requirements. Terms of the new loan are considerably easier than those attached to the £5 billion commercial bank credit signed last February.

Mexico's debts still total about £83 billion. But the country has cut inflation from 100 per cent in 1982 to 53.8 per cent in the first eight-months of this year and the economy is improving fast.

A British banker said yesterday: "There is still some way to go. But the Mexicans have managed this extraordinary performance by not only complying with the expectations of outsiders, especially in terms of scrupulously making interest payments, but in many cases going beyond them."

The main achievement was to cut the national budget deficit from 17 per cent of gross

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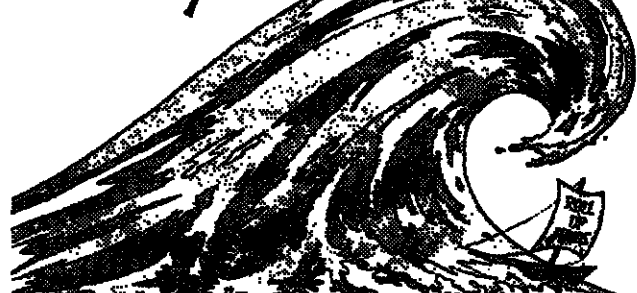
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to be invested in a Seven Day Account at my/our local branch in _____ I/We understand that the rate may vary.
Full name(s) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Signature(s) _____ Date _____
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Andrew Cornelius on the change at the Takeover Panel

Hignett bows out, defending a softly-softly approach to bids

Mr John Hignett, director general of the City Takeover Panel for 2½ years, retires this week with the City's code on takeovers and mergers intact and the principle of self-regulation confirmed.

The challenge left open to his successor, Mr Timothy Barker, a 43-year-old member of the corporate finance team at Kleinwort, Benson, is to combine successfully the roles of director general of the Panel and director general of the new Council for the Securities Industry, Mr Hignett took on responsibility for the two jobs last summer, but he admits that the new council, the ultimate watchdog of City affairs, is not yet functioning properly.

Its role will be more clearly defined next year when the Gower Report on investor protection will be published. Other committees established by the council on the over-the-counter market, the future of the Stock Exchange and the implementation of EEC directives in the City will also be ready to report next year.

As the council's workload builds up, so, too, will that of the director general. The additional burden will be added to that of the Takeover Panel where a dedicated team already works a 12-hour day, including many weekends.

Mr Hignett, who returns to Lazard as a managing director in the corporate finance department, had personally to monitor more than 150 bids in 1983 — perhaps the Panel's busiest year so far. The bids ranged from largely unpublicized takeover attempts, such as that by Jorheut Investments for the Badolier Tea Company to the record-breaking bids for Eagle Star Holdings by Allianz Versicherung, of West Germany, and BAT Industries.

The Eagle Star bid has been one of the toughest for Mr Hignett and his colleagues to handle. Before Christmas, they called a full meeting of the Takeover Panel, chaired by Mr Martin Jacob, a vice-chairman of Kleinwort, Benson.

This was one of the rare occasions that Mr Hignett had to call the Panel members together to resolve a problem. Normally, his softly-softly approach, coupled with an occasional warning to bidders by means of a statement to the press, has been enough to curtail takeover excesses. This time, however, Mr Hignett was

BIGGEST BIDS OF THE YEAR



Hignett: code intact

Target	Bidder	Price	Result
Eagle Star Holdings	BAT Industries	£360m	Undecided
Thomas Tilling	ATA	£280m	Victory
UDS	Harman Trust	£220m	Victory
Stanley Perry	Cambridge	£122m	Refused
British Gas	Securities	£100m	Failed
British Telecom	Shoeburys	£55m	Undecided
British Airways	Shoeburys	£50m	Refused
PAO	Shoeburys	£250m	Refused
London Stock	Shoeburys	£170m	Undecided

unable to win agreement from Eagle, Allianz and BAT on bringing a speedy conclusion to the bidding.

The problem was trying to maintain a balance between the interests of Eagle Star, whose business could possibly be damaged if the ill-fated bidding was prolonged, and the rights of shareholders who could be prevented from obtaining the best price for their shares if the bidding was concluded prematurely.

The panel's decision to set a deadline for the bidding at 4.30pm yesterday, however, sets a precedent.

Mr Hignett also discounts the view that takeover tactics have become dirtier this year. He says: "There have been more bids which have been bigger and with more to play for. This has meant that the tactics have become better. But I don't think the tactics have been dirtier."

He counters criticism of his softly-softly approach to the more controversial tactics employed in some bids by arguing that it is not the panel's job to interfere with tactics, except as a last resort.

On two occasions when the Panel did intervene during the

6 The tacticians have become better but I don't think the tactics have been dirtier

By insisting that there should be a shoot-out then, the panel opened the way for a last-minute sealed-envelope auction of Eagle Star.

Mr Hignett does not think it is the best way to resolve the company's future but, he says, the panel had to reach a solution that was the fairest possible for each party even if it was not entirely satisfactory to all of them.

Though the takeover rules were tested to their limits by the bidding for Eagle Star, Mr Hignett suggests that the problems arose only because the two bidders remained in the battle for so long. He says the bid was made more complicated because it involved a foreign bidder and such large sums.

He adds: "The bidding for UDS went on much longer, but no one seemed to think the duration of the bid was a problem in that case."

year, Mr Hignett chose to publicize a set of guidelines rather than force a big revision of the rulebook.

Thus when the tacticians in the BTR/Thomas Tilling and Trafalgar House/P&O bids decided to mount huge press advertising campaigns to persuade shareholders how to vote, the panel made public a series of guidelines to govern the use of advertising. The panel also made use of its power to vet advertisements before publication.

In September, when the fiercely fought £18m battle for control of John Waddington by British Printing & Communication Corporation was reaching its final stages, the panel acted again. This time, the problem concerned statements made by BPCC to Waddington shareholders concerning the level of acceptances received for its offer.

The Panel judged that BPCC had entered dangerous waters by mentioning the percentage of acceptances on the telephone. Again the gentle approach was followed by publication of a guidance note which said that in future there should be a script for telephone calls which financial advisers should vet vigorously from the point of view of the code's requirements.

A third area of concern will prompt a statement explaining the Panel's views in its next annual report.

This following controversy over the definition of the existence of concert parties when Hawley Group was bidding for the Cope Allman leisure and packaging group.

The problem centred on whether Mr Michael Ashcroft, of Hawley Group, and Mr David Wickins, of British Car Auctions, were acting in concert.

The two had joined in launching an unsuccessful consortium bid for Cope, but Mr Ashcroft decided to pursue the takeover alone. Cope voiced its concern that Mr Wickins would add his 13 per cent stake to that of Mr Ashcroft if Hawley were allowed by the panel to launch a tender offer for up to 29 per cent of Cope's shares.

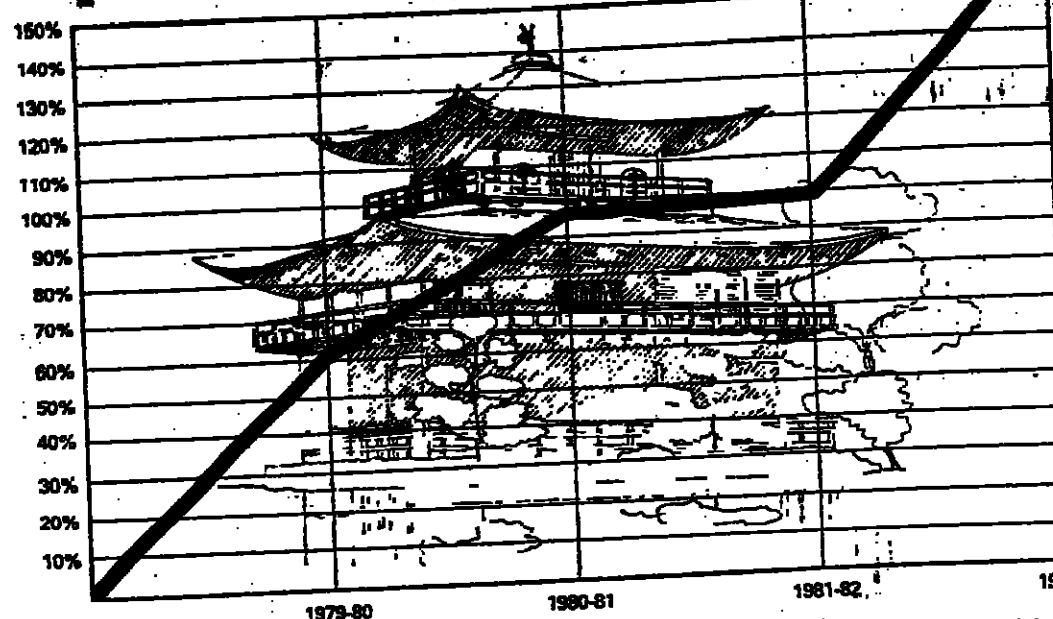
The panel's decision that Mr Ashcroft and Mr Wickins were no longer acting in concert aroused heated debate. But subsequent events showed the panel to be right.

The only fundamental change in the rule book while Mr Hignett was at the panel followed the preponderance of dawn raids in the market. Yet, looking back at the rules introduced to control the raids, Mr Hignett wonders whether they are not excessively complicated.

The raids took place at the bottom of the market when there had not been much bid activity. The fact that most of those selling shares in these raids lost out would probably have been enough to quell dawn raids without the new rules, Mr Hignett adds.

Looking at the bid scene in 1984, Mr Hignett predicts that the City will see a great deal more arbitrage by American investors hoping to make profits by taking a position in British bids.

Japan is just across the counter...



Midland Bank Japan and Pacific Unit Trust

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Launched 5 years ago, Japan and Pacific Unit Trust aims for capital growth from a portfolio of Far Eastern securities with the emphasis on Japan. Original unit holders have enjoyed capital and income appreciation of 173%*. The Managers have again chosen Midland Bank Japan and Pacific Unit Trust as one of their two selections in the current BBC Radio 4 Money Box Unit Trust Managers Competition.

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There are over 2,800 Midland Bank Group branches in Great Britain. You can buy into Japan over the counter. Call at your local branch or fill in the coupon below and send direct to us.

Please remember the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Midland Bank Unit Trusts

BUYING ORDER

HOW TO INVEST
You can purchase distribution or accumulation units for any amount from £500 upwards. Send the buying order with cheque to the address shown or contact any branch of Midland Bank, Clydesdale Bank or Northern Bank.

The offer price of accumulation units, which can change daily, was 136p on 28 December 1983. Units may be sold on any business day at not less than the minimum bid price ruling when your instructions are received. Prices are published daily in leading newspapers and calculated in accordance with Department of Trade regulations.

Income
Distributions of net income are made on 15 April and 15 October each year. The current estimated gross yield on 28 December 1983 was 9.16%. As the yield is very low it is recommended that you select accumulation units where the interest will be automatically reinvested on your behalf.

Charges
The initial charge of 5% with a rounding up adjustment is included in the offer price. The Managers pay commission to authorised Agents (rates available on request). A half-yearly charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the fund is deducted from the Trust's income for expenses and fees. The Trust Deed permits a maximum half yearly charge of 1% (plus VAT), subject to giving unit holders not less than three months written notice.

Managers
Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Limited, Courtwood House, Silver Street Head, Sheffield S1 3RD, a subsidiary of Midland Bank plc and a member of the Unit Trust Association.

Investment Managers
Investment Management Ltd, Register Clydesdale Bank plc, Register Royal Exchange Assurance.

To: Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Limited, Courtwood House, Silver Street Head, Sheffield S1 3RD, Tel 0742 79842

Registered Office 17/32 Postory, London EC2P 2BX Registered No. 93387 England

I/We enclose a cheque payable to you for- £ (minimum £500)

for investment in: Distribution units ☐ Accumulation units ☐

(please tick) of Midland Bank Japan and Pacific Unit Trust

Surname (Mr/Ms/Miss) _____

Forename(s) in full _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Signature(s) _____ (in the case of joint applicants all must sign)

I/We understand that units will be bought for me/us at the offer price ruling on the date of receipt of this application.

A contract note will be issued and you will receive a unit certificate within 42 days.

Please send me details of: Regular Savings Plan ☐ Share Exchange Scheme ☐ (please tick)

The offer is open to residents of the Republic of Ireland

TJ/12

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This investment is tax-free in respect of its accumulation and payment is made offshore, without any deduction for tax. According to its country of residence, an investor may be liable to local tax — and, if you are in doubt about the implications of any potential liability, you should seek advice.

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To: Bowring Tyson (I.O.M.) Limited, Victoria House, Prospect Hill, Douglas, Isle of Man. Telephone: (0624) 23841/25013. Please send, without delay, full details of the offshore guaranteed growth bond. I understand that this will place me under no obligation whatsoever.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____ I am interested in a Sterling or Dollar contract: ☐ Please tick appropriate. I am interested in the alternative contract with the currency hedge: ☐ Approximate amount available for investment: £/US \$ _____

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*Interest Rates quoted correct at time of going to press.

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19% GOLD
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A SLICE OF THE WORLD?

NEW OFFER

M&G INTERNATIONAL GROWTH FUND (formerly M&G Magnum)

This new offer of units in the M&G International Growth Fund gives investors a chance to share in investment opportunities around the world. The objective of the Fund is all-out capital growth and yield is not normally taken into consideration.

M&G was the first unit trust management company to develop a range of funds specialising in different parts of the world, and its expertise in this field is widely acknowledged. M&G International Growth Fund has a portfolio of shares selected internationally, reducing the inevitable risk of concentration in any one geographical area.

The Fund was originally called M&G Magnum but this has now been changed to reflect more accurately its aim and nature. At present the UK is the largest individual sector but this may well be reduced in the light of developments in other parts of the world.

THE FUND'S RECORD OF GROWTH

An investment of £10,000 at its launch in December 1967 had grown in value to £86,010 by 21st December 1983, including reinvested income. By comparison a similar investment in the F.T. All Share Index, adjusted for reinvestment of income, would have grown to £64,151 over the same period.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

NEW OFFER — THE ADVANTAGE OF INVESTING BEFORE 22nd FEBRUARY 1984

Applications for units received on or before 22nd February 1984 will bear a preliminary charge of only 3½%. After 22nd February the preliminary charge will be increased to 5%, to bring it into line with other M&G unit trusts and, indeed, the level of charges applicable to unit trusts in general. So there is a clear advantage in not delaying your investment.

Further Information: On 21st December 1983 the estimated current gross yield was 3.01% at an offered price for Accumulation units of 860.1p. Prices and yields appear daily in the F.T. The preliminary charge already described is included in the offered price; an annual charge of up to 1% (currently limited to ¾%) plus VAT of the Fund's value is deducted from gross income. Distributions on Income units are paid net of basic rate tax on 20th March and 20th September. The next distribution for new investors will be 20th March 1984, provided your application is received before 27th January 1984. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two or three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited.

The Fund is a wider range investment and is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-626 4588.

NEW OFFER CLOSES 22nd FEBRUARY

All applications received by 22nd February 1984 will bear a preliminary charge of only 3½%. After 22nd February this charge will be increased to 5%.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. TELEPHONE: 01-626 4588.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. (A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.)

PLEASE INVEST £ in ACCUMULATION INCOME Units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued) at the price ruling on receipt of this application in the M&G International Growth Fund. (Minimum £1,000.)

02 FULL FORENAME(S)

SURNAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

04 ADDRESS

POST CODE 00 00 00 00 00 00

DATE

SIGNATURE

Preparation of Form 507/76 Reg. Office as above. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Member of the Unit Trust Association

M&G

FAMILY MONEY

Advice from home

A service to be launched in the New Year will provide specialist advice and assistance to British expatriates.

Mr David Young, first editor of *Resident Abroad*, the Financial Times magazine for expatriates, is joined in this venture by Mr John Birch, former managing director of Employment Conditions Abroad.

The company has a team of specialist consultants on call including Mr Alex McWhirter (travel advisor), Mr Dick Challinor-Davies (education), Mr Christopher Philpotts (political and diplomatic consultant), General Richard Clutterbuck (personal and corporate security advisor) and Mr David Calland, (international pensions consultant). They aim to provide a wide service including advice on financial planning, property, pensions and the intricacies of National Insurance contributions and reciprocal tax arrangements.

Further details from the Expatriate Consultancy, Fitzwilliam House, 32 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QY.

Saving years

A £20 a month third issue Save As You Earn contract reaching its fifth anniversary on tomorrow will have a cash value of £1,517.43. This is equivalent to an annual return over the five years of 9.32 per cent. A £20 a month contract reaching its seventh anniversary will have a cash value of £1,945.80 including the bonus of two monthly payments. This is equivalent to an annual return over seven years of 10.96 per cent.

Holiday insurance

Basic information on holiday insurance and taking a car abroad is contained in the latest leaflet from the British Insurance Association called *Holiday Insurance*.

The BIA says: "Insurance is a vital part of planning a holiday. About 50 per cent of claims are for expenses arising out of cancellation of holiday arrangements and the message is clear — check that you have adequate cover when you book your holiday and not just before you go." Send a stamped addressed envelope to Department 7, British Insurance Association, Alderman House, Queen Street, London EC4N 1TU, for a free copy of the leaflet.

Dial a debt

Having difficulty collecting money owing to you? Then learn effective debt collection at a half-day seminar run by the business information company Dun & Bradstreet.

The company says: "With proper know-how, the telephone is one of the most effective weapons in a company's debt collection armoury."

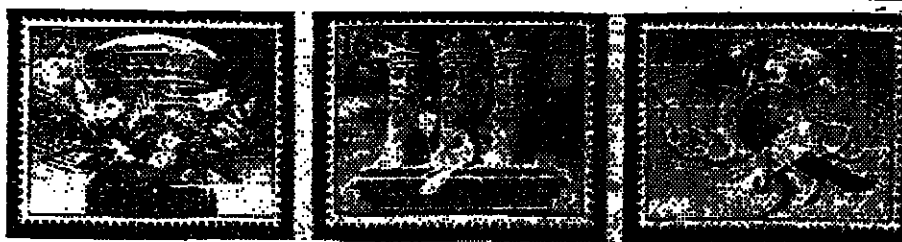
The seminars which take place next month and in February, will be conducted by a telephone communications expert, Miss Pauline Mainland, and are aimed at improving debt collecting techniques. Further information from Dun & Bradstreet's Business Education Division.

Holiday savings

Free holidays for children and their parents are being offered by Lloyds Bank in a Black Horse Young Savers competition. Anyone under 16 on January 31 with at least £30 in a Black Horse Young Savers Account is eligible to take part.

Contestants have to answer six questions — two on the subject of Florida, two on Lloyds Bank, and two on the bank of England. They must also complete the sentence "I think it is important to save because..." in not more than 25 words.

Four top prizes are two-week holidays in Florida with the winners being able to take their parents and any brothers or sisters under 16. Details from Lloyds branches.



Stamps for charity

Abbey National branches will be accepting used postage stamps in January to raise funds for the National Autistic Society — a charity, in its 21st year which helps to educate and support autistic children. Every Abbey National investor with a Junior Saver account has been asked to help but stamps will be accepted from any source.



Property list

Investment in small workshops of up to 2,500 sq ft has afforded tax relief of up to 100 per cent of the capital expenditure since 1980.

This has been used by many higher-rate taxpayers as a way of cutting their income tax bill. But the problem is to find a suitable building before the end of the current tax year.

A list of these properties is now available from the IBA Register. It is posted to investors, accountants and estate agents for £10 annually, with a monthly update. Vendors pay an advertising fee if the property is sold to an IBA Register subscriber.

Moreover, the publishers do not investigate the investment potential of the properties listed and warn would-be purchasers to make sure that the property is what the sellers claim it is. But the list does provide a clearing house, putting buyers and sellers in touch. Details: IBA Register, 12 Scott Road, Hove, BN3 5HN.

Leeds smiles

Leeds Permanent Building Society has increased its mortgage lending allocations by 20 per cent in an attempt to cut long queues at branches.

Mr Peter Hemmingsway, its chief general manager, said: "Demand for mortgages with normally declines at this time of year has remained high. The increased lending will, hopefully, satisfy demand and so this will pave the way for a possible reduction in interest rates in the not too distant future."

Non-smokers' bonus

If you are wavering over a decision to give up cigarettes as a New Year's resolution, remember it could save you money when it comes to life insurance. Many of the leading life insurance companies offer significant discounts to those who shun cigarettes or limit their smoking to cigars and pipes.

A man facing 40 next birthday looking for a five year term assurance of £50,000 can cut his gross monthly premium from £137.46 to £92.80 with Yorkshire General or from £100.50 to £80.40 with Sun Life.

Fires cost £37m

The cost of fires in November was £36.6m, with 14 fires each causing more than £25,000 worth of damage. One fire, at a goods depot in Yorkshire, cost £12.5m.

Warning to women

St Christopher Motorists' Security Association, which insures drivers against losing their licences, has a New Year message for all women acting as chauffeurs to their male companions during the party season: Remember you have to be twice as careful as a man when you drink.

"Women are often 50 per cent lighter than the man and alcohol has a greater chemical effect on their metabolism," said Mr Martin O'Neill, a spokesman for the association. "My advice is to take a taxi or there should be a fair loss-up as to who drinks and who drives. Often a woman's loss of licence can have a more devastating effect on the home because of school runs and shopping."

Act before 5th April for a 10% initial bonus + up to 12 months' tax relief

M&G Capital Builder Plan for people aged 55 and under and M&G Investment Builder Plan (for those of 56 or more) are designed for investors who wish to build up capital. Because the plans include life assurance cover, M&G reclaim tax and add it to your payments; this means that in almost all cases you get more than 100% invested. You can increase this benefit and get off to a good start by backdating your plan.

Furthermore M&G will add 10 percentage points to the figures in the table for your first year's premium if you send in the form for a backdated plan before 5th April 1984.

People aged 55 or under can backdate a plan by up to 12 months, and so can anyone aged 56 who backdates a plan to start before his 56th birthday. If you are 57 or more, you can backdate by up to 3 months.

Your money is invested in the M&G Bond Fund chosen from the list in the application form. You can switch from one fund to another at any time, subject to a small fee (currently £10). The future value of your plan will depend on your starting age and the performance of the Fund you choose, as unit prices will fluctuate with the value of the assets held in the Fund. If a man of 35 started a £20 net a month plan and the unit price grew on average by 10% p.a., he could expect to receive £14,440 after 20 years for a total net outlay of £4,800.

Effective age at start	Percentage of each monthly payment available for investment		
	£15-£19	£20-£39	£40 upwards
Up to 35	114.1%	117.5%	121.4%
36 to 40	112.8%	116.4%	120.0%
41	110.5%	114.1%	117.5%
45	105.8%	109.4%	112.8%
50	98.8%	102.3%	105.8%
55-62	102.3%	105.8%	108.4%
65	108.2%	111.7%	115.2%

NOTES: The percentages apply to both men and women, and assume acceptance on normal terms and tax relief at 15%. If the rate changes, the net amount you may pay will change accordingly. Percentages for intermediate ages fall between the figures shown and are available on request.

You can benefit from tax relief provided your total life assurance premiums do not exceed the greater of £1,500 p.a. or one-sixth of your total income.

The plan provides immediate life cover: Capital Builder — 15 times your gross annual premium (i.e. the amount you pay plus tax relief); Investment Builder — 75% of your gross annual premium multiplied by the number of years to go before you reach the age of 75. Your first two years' premiums buy capital units; subsequent premiums buy Accumulation units. The offered price of both units include a 5% initial charge. There is an annual charge of currently ¾% for Accumulation units and 5% for Capital units. Although you can cash in your plan at any time after you have paid one year's premiums you are recommended not to do so for at least four years, to avoid a forfeit of tax relief. Accumulation units are always encashed for their bid value; there is a deduction from Capital units on early encashment which reduces to nil after 10 years, e.g. you would receive 60% of their value after two years, increasing by 4% for each subsequent year. Accumulation unit prices are reported daily in the Financial Times and Capital unit prices are available from M&G on request. You have no personal liability to tax on capital gains but higher-rate tax-payers are advised to continue payments for at least 10 years, for tax reasons. Tax payable by the Company on capital gains is reflected in the price of units. Actual rights as between policyholders and the Company will be governed solely by the terms of the policies and a specimen policy form is available on request.

M&G LIFE, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4588.

USE THIS FORM TO GET UP TO 12 MONTHS' TAX RELIEF AND 10% EXTRA INVESTED

I WISH TO PAY £ net of tax relief each month (minimum £15) on an assurance policy with benefits linked to the Fund of my choice (delete as applicable). I enclose my cheque for the first net payment of £ equivalent to monthly payments (a maximum of 12 — 3 if you are 57 or more), payable to M&G Life Assurance Company Limited. I understand that this payment is only provisional and that the Company will not assume risk until formal acceptance has been received.

Full name (s)
SURNAME (delete as applicable)
ADDRESS
POST CODE
TELEPHONE AND NATURE OF BUSINESS
DATE OF BIRTH
DAY MONTH YEAR
DATE OF SIGNATURE
DAY MONTH YEAR

Please circle Fund selected, otherwise your policy will be linked to Managed Bond.
AMERICAN
AMERICAN RECOVERY
AMER. SMALLER CO'S
AUSTRALASIAN
COMMODITY
CONVERTIBLE DEPOSIT
EQUITY
EXTRA YIELD
FAR EASTERN
GILT
INDEX-LINKED GILT
INTERNATIONAL
JAPAN
MANAGED
PROPERTY
RECOVERY

To: M&G LIFE, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. TELEPHONE: 01-626 4588.

DECLARATION If you cannot sign Part B below delete it and sign Part A only.

PART A (I DECLARE THAT the premiums will be paid by myself or by my spouse and the payer of the premiums will be resident in the U.K.) I consent to M&G Life seeking information concerning my physical or mental health from any doctor who has attended me or seeking information from any insurance office to which a proposal has been made for insurance on my life and I authorize the giving of such information. Any declaration made by me in connection with this proposal shall be the basis of the contract between me and M&G Life Assurance Company Limited.

PART B (I DECLARE THAT to the best of my belief I am in good health and free from disease; I have not had any serious illness or major operation; I do not engage in any hazardous sports or pursuits and my proposal on my life has never been adversely treated. (You must disclose all facts likely to influence assessment of this proposal. If you are in doubt as to the relevance of any particular information you should disclose it as failure to do so may affect the benefits payable.)

Do you have an existing M&G policy? YES/NO

DATE

SIGNATURE

M&G

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During 1984, more than £5,000 million of government stocks will be redeemed by private and corporate investors. But, for each of these investors, there is one vital question to be answered.

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THE M&G GROUP

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Divorce Bill

'Self-sufficiency' can lead to maintenance cuts

The Government's new Divorce Bill, expected to become law by early spring, has run into opposition from single-parent family groups. They are against its proposals on child support - or, more to the point, the lack of it. To be sure, the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill is a bit of a dog's dinner.

It deals with a number of separate issues - allowing a split after one year of marriage, for instance (that has upset the clergy), promoting the concept of a "clean break" between divorcing partners and snuffing out the whole thing by claiming it is putting the interests of children first. But is it?

Mr Paul Collins at One-Parent Families, says: "Of course, we are all for putting children first. But we want substance, not rhetoric."

And the Bill is indeed rather short when it comes to explaining just how this admirable principle should be established, raising doubts that it is a pretence for reducing the amount of maintenance.

Just saying it's in the interests of the children simply is not enough," points out Robbie Robson at Gingerbread. She believes single parents might end up with even less maintenance when the new Bill comes into force.

Traditionally, courts seem to award rather low sums for child maintenance. And whoever thinks that offspring are not quite as expensive to keep as an adult simply has not done the sums.

So, even if the courts are instructed under the Bill to deal with child maintenance first, there is no guarantee this will result in more money being paid. But there was an important amendment recently, announced by Lord Hailsham in the Lords, that will provide courts with the criteria on which to base child maintenance orders.

The guidelines will be those of the National Foster Care Association: an order would start at £26 a week for a child aged up to four, rising to £46 a week for a 16 or 17-year-old.

We are born with domicile and we shall die with domicile. For all but a few this will be the same one, even in cases where the greater part of a working lifetime has been spent somewhere else. It is, therefore, a very tenacious animal.

Domicile is of principal concern in capital transfer tax since the taxation of income depends on whether its source is in Britain in which case it is always taxable, no matter who receives the income, or if it is remitted to Britain.

However, it should not be forgotten that all income arising anywhere must be reported on tax returns by anyone who is both domiciled and resident in Britain for the tax year in question. Despite popular mythology, the remittance basis cannot apply to anyone who is domiciled in Britain except in extreme cases where it can be demonstrated that the income cannot be remitted.

So difficult is it to be rid of



BEFORE YOU TURN THE LIGHT OFF JUST REMEMBER THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW PROPOSALS ON CHILD SUPPORT...

This may solve one problem - the fact that registrars as well as spouses often do not realize the cost of keeping a child. But again, the actual amount is in the hands of the courts.

Gingerbread is still worried that overall single-parent family support might be reduced by the Bill. Robbie Robson says: "The court might award so much to the children and it could be a low figure and then pay a smaller amount to a mother on the grounds that she should be self-sufficient."

And it is the principle of self-sufficiency that appears to many to be the thin end of a controversial wedge.

There have been soothing words from the Government to the effect that self-sufficiency (which replaces the notion that a wife is entitled to be kept for life) is only to be applied "where appropriate" and is not intended to hinder single parents bringing up children.

"If this is the intention," asks Robbie Robson, "why didn't they write this into the Bill in the first place?" She believes it will affect legal agreements.

Mothers will be persuaded that what the law actually intends, therefore they will not fight.

Fair enough, but the spectre of self-sufficiency has had the odd result of uniting the "Jam and Jerusalem" lobby, that thinks marriage is a job for life, with the feminists who have frequently said that it should not be.

Robbie Robson adds: "They

are saying 'Here's the Bill, you've got equality, now get on with it. It's putting the cart before the horse. The facts are that women give up a great deal to raise children; they lose out on their careers. Men generally speaking don't really share the burdens of child care equally in our society. If they did, there would be a day nursery on every street corner.' She thinks it is wrong to establish the principle of self-sufficiency while inequalities between men and women persist.

Looked at from the practical point of view, however, will the Bill have any effect? According to one survey, only 6 per cent of wives rely on maintenance payments as their main source of financial support. Moreover, the single-parent family groups, have never really regarded private maintenance as a private matter, but as a public problem. Why, then, all the fuss about the Bill?

What seems to have irritated them more than anything is the implication that single parents are alimony drones (the Law Commission inadvertently used the term in its original 1981 treatise). So the Bill is seen as a middle-class male backlash, concocted by a Prime Minister who is a second wife, a Lord Chancellor who was divorced and trumpeted by a media dominated, I was reliably informed by one single-parent group's representative, by a bunch of divorced hacks.

Margaret Drummond

Domicile

Long arm of the Revenue

domicile that it is well-nigh impossible to sandwich a period of non-domicile between two other periods. Thus, even where people go abroad with the intention of staying in another country for the rest of their days if circumstances dictate that they return to the United Kingdom, it is highly unlikely that they will be judged as having been domiciled anywhere but Britain for the whole period.

This produces some curious results, particularly for capital transfer tax. The legislation has

been so written that the principle of cumulation would apply to gifts of property made while resident abroad.

If an Arab living in Saudi Arabia wants to give to his son, also living in Saudi Arabia, a chunk of the Dorchester Hotel in London which he just happens to own, he is obliged to make a CTT return to the British authorities.

If all else fails, the Inland Revenue always has the S.478 of the Taxes Act 1970 to attack the returning expatriate. This gives the Revenue the right to tax a British resident on the income of an overseas person over whom he is deemed to have control.

For example, passing over assets before returning to Britain not only counts as a gift for CTT purposes, but may still make the income from them liable to income tax.

Under British law, you take the domicile of your father at birth and can do nothing about it until you come of age...

Insurance

Benefits of accident and health cover

The horrible injuries suffered by the victims of the Harrods car bomb and those who have been maimed by drunken Christmas drivers, bring home all too powerfully the unpleasant fact that we are three times more likely to be injured or disabled than we are to die prematurely.

Yet accident and disability insurance has one of the lowest take-ups of all types of insurance and permanent health insurance is often considered a luxury.

Both accident and permanent health insurance provide benefits if a person is injured and unable to work but they are very different types of policies.

Accident and disability policies tend to be annual contracts - the sort where you pay a premium, but the insurer has no responsibility to continue the cover after one year if he no longer wants to insure the risk.

Personal accident policies usually pay a lump sum for accidental death, loss of one or more limbs or eyes, with lesser amounts for the loss of fingers or toes. They may also pay a weekly sum for temporary or permanent total disablement for a maximum of 104 weeks.

The Pru, for example, sells a policy which offers £10,000 accidental death benefit plus £10,000 for loss of an eye or loss of a limb (more generous than loss of a limb). There is also £200-a-week benefit for up to 104 weeks for temporary total disablement, or £10 a week for temporary partial disablement, premium for someone in a sedentary occupation would be £15 a year occupation would be £15 a year.

If you think £10,000 is not enough, you can buy more £10,000 units up to a maximum of £50,000 worth of lump sum cover and £100 weekly benefit. This would work out at an annual premium of £75.

Since premiums are based on occupation, the danger is that if

you change your job and do something considered to be more of a risk, the insurer could refuse cover.

Permanent health insurance offers much wider protection, paying a regular weekly sum for the rest of your working life if you are unable to work - either through accident, disablement or sickness. But more important, it is a lifelong contract, and provided you pay the premium, the insurer is obliged to continue with the cover once you have been accepted.

Mr Laurie Harding of the Pru says: "People are much more likely to be injured in an accident than to be killed outright and we have some statistics that show that people are three times more likely to be injured or disabled than to die prematurely."

Permanent health cover also provides benefits when you are ill - not necessarily as a result of an accident - and unable to work. The Pru and Norwich Union offer cover for non-working wives as well.

Few companies are prepared to insure wives or other non-working dependants and both the Pru and Norwich Union restrict maximum cover for a working wife to £2,000 a year and £2,500 respectively.

Permanent health cover can be expensive unless you are prepared to accept a "deferral" period - a waiting time in between being off work through illness and the start of the benefits.

Most people in white collar jobs will continue to receive their salary for some weeks - often months - if they are sick, so you can afford to defer your benefit payments. For a 13-week deferral period, cover for a non-working wife of 40, benefit payable to age 60 at a rate of £50 a week would cost £68.67 a year. Benefit of £150 a week for a man aged 45, payable to age 65, works out at £230.50 a year.

How (and where) on earth do you choose

THE BEST INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY?

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The strategy is to place your money in the early stages of booming markets in different parts of the world, to generate a profit, then to close the investment position and switch the funds - lock, stock and barrel - into new opportunities in other markets.

This philosophy involves an above average degree of risk and does not have the security of a building society. However, the potential rewards are many, many, times greater:

Over the last 12 months*	Over the last 24 months*
Building Society +6.8%	Building Society +16.4%
Special Market Fund +33.7%	Special Market Fund +54.0%

*For the 12 months to 1.12.83, after the reinvestment of net income.

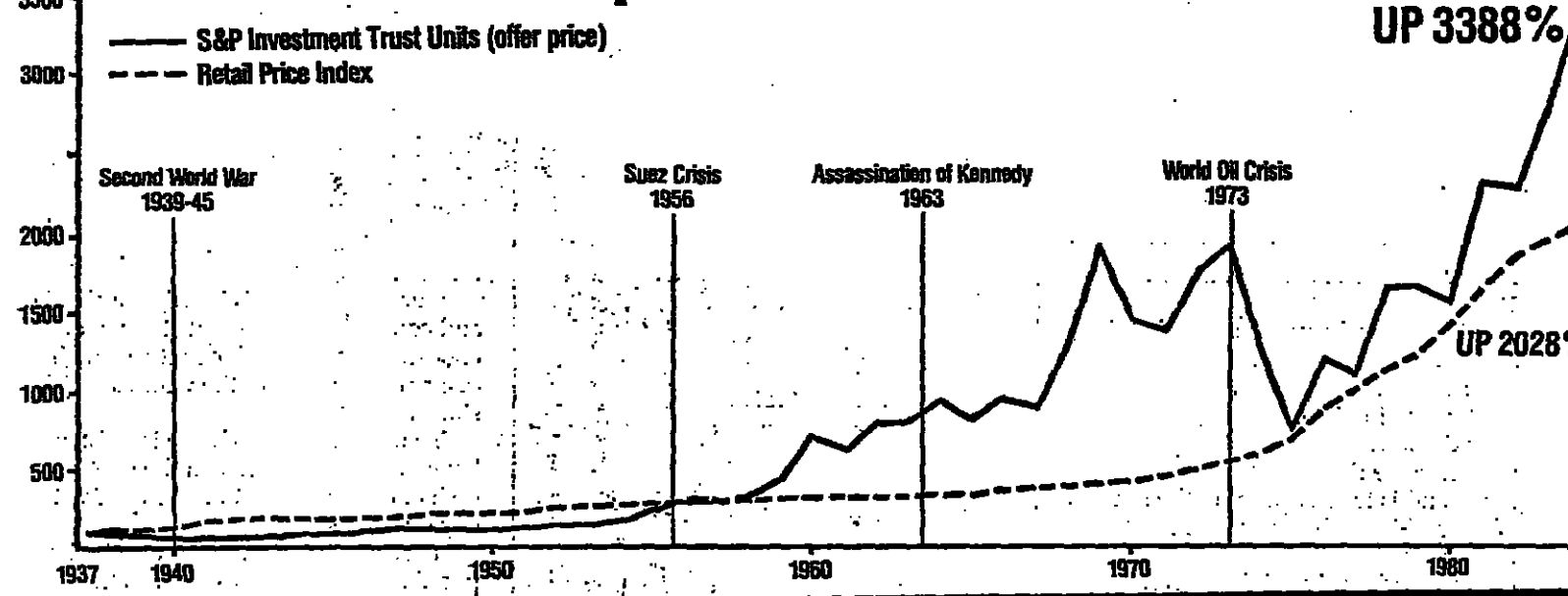
The managers of this really special fund are advised by Henderson, who themselves have been the top performing major unit trust group over the last 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 years. (Source: *Planned Savings magazine*)

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(Please tick as appropriate) Tel. No. _____ Date of Birth _____
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Save & Prosper Investment Trust Units



Share in the proven strength of Investment Trust Units

If you are looking for an investment which can beat inflation, take a look at the record of Save & Prosper Investment Trust Units. As we enter our 50th anniversary year, it is worth noting that ITU has been in existence for 46 of these years and in that time has easily beaten inflation, thus protecting the real value of investors' savings. Its current value is £260 million, which is held on behalf of around 80,000 people.

The fund provides an unequalled spread of investment currently covering more than 100 investment trusts. A high proportion of investment trusts' assets are invested in shares in North America and Japan. These two economies are the "locomotive" force behind the present world recovery.

Investment flexibility

A key feature of ITU is that the fund managers can now switch assets from one country to another quickly, due in part to the major changes of recent years which have brought an increasing availability of attractive specialist trusts.

Excellent performance

The fund's overall record has been outstanding. Recent performance is, however, the most relevant. In the year to 20th December 1983 the offer price of units rose by 32.3%, compared with a 21.3% rise in the FTA All-Share Index, and over the last 4 years by 135.7% against 99.7% in the FTA All-Share Index.

Investment prospects

We believe that prospects for investment trust shares are good, now that steps have been taken to remedy the difficulties faced during the 1970s. These problems resulted in a widening of the average discount between asset value and share price from 3.5% in 1972 to 35% in 1978. With the average discount now 25%, there is every reason to believe that current and future changes will have continued beneficial effects on share prices.

In addition many less successful trusts have been taken over, with improved investment performance prospects as a result; others have been converted into unit trusts. But more importantly, investment objectives have been changed to reflect the needs of

today's investors. The removal of capital gains tax in 1980 for investment trusts has enabled and encouraged their managements to adopt more flexible and aggressive policies.

Now that the world is moving out of recession, in our opinion the investment trust sector is well positioned to profit in the 1980s.

About Save & Prosper

Founded in 1934, Save & Prosper is Britain's largest unit trust group and a major force in life assurance, pensions and annuities. On 1st December 1983 the Group managed funds of £1,800 million.

Apply today for units

To invest, simply complete and return the coupon with your cheque. Investments of £1,000 or more received by 20th January 1984 qualify for a 2% free allocation of units. The cost of this free allocation is borne entirely by the Managers. The offer price of units in the fund on 20th December 1983 was 59.4p and the estimated gross starting yield was 3.10% p.a. Remember that the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Unit Trusts Important information for anyone investing in Unit Trusts

If you had invested £1000 with the managers of the Fidelity Japan Unit Trust last year they would have turned it into £2,182 on your behalf.

The managers of the Britannia Preference Share Unit Trust, however, would have reduced your £1000 to £820 over the same period.

Thus the common financial fallacy that all Unit Trusts perform more or less equally, is exploded. In fact, it has been possible since the emergence of Unit Trusts as a sound and worthwhile investment vehicle, to reap really massive profits.

The secret of financial success is to move your money from fund to fund, never tying up your capital for long periods of time.

The problem, with over 500 approved funds to choose from, is where you should invest and for how long.

The logical and proven way to make money Unit Trust Moneymaker is a confidential monthly action guide devoted entirely to helping you maximise your profits from Unit Trusts and other managed funds.

We are a completely independent publication and will not accept advertising. The editorial board consists of a panel of city and financial experts. Every month you can look forward to comprehensive and valuable contents, including:

- Which Unit Trusts are the best performers - we examine a number of funds in detail, look at future prospects, and explain our choices.
- You discover when to buy and when to sell.
- We recommend a "Hot Tip of the Month" - one Unit Trust winner which has been really checked out by our specialist team.
- Unit Trusts to avoid and sell - and the reasons why.
- We expose all the hidden secrets of the Unit Trust business - management charges, entry fees, professional advisors, how what's good for an investment manager isn't necessarily good for his clients - remember trust managers are in business like anybody else.
- We explore the tax implications of making a large profit.
- You learn the pros and cons of storing money abroad.
- We also investigate other managed funds - currency funds, investment trusts, commodity funds and insurance linked packages; with our advice you should be able to double your capital every year.

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Branch/Address _____

A/C No (if known) _____

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Please pay to the order of Stonehart Publications Ltd., No 70, No. 01088822, at Midland Bank Ltd., Knightsbridge, 40 04 10, the sum of £46 two months after the date shown and thereafter on the anniversary of the date shown each year the sum of £69 being my membership subscription to Unit Trust Moneymaker and debit my/our account accordingly until our term/mandate by me in writing.

SPECIAL OFFER Until 20th January 2% FREE ALLOCATION OF UNITS

When you invest £1,000 or more in this unit trust

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dealing in units in the fund may normally be bought or sold on any working day. Certificates will normally be forwarded within 14 working days. When units are sold back to the Managers, payment is normally made within 7 days of our receiving renounced certificates. Prices and the yield are quoted in leading newspapers.

Net income distributions 31st May and 30th November each year.

Charges There is an initial charge not exceeding 3.25% plus a rounding adjustment not exceeding the lower of 1% or 1.25p. Renunciation (at rates available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers. There is also a half-yearly charge of 4% of the value of the fund plus VAT. This is deducted from the fund's assets to meet Managers' expenses, including Trustees' fees.

Safeguards The fund is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and is a wider-range investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961. The Trustee is Bank of Scotland.

Managers Save & Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP. Telephone: 0708-669666.

A member of the Unit Trust Association.

To: Save & Prosper Securities Ltd., Administration Centre, Beagons House, 28 Western Road, Rofford RM1 3LB. Telephone: 0708-669666.

Units will be allocated at the quoted unit offer price ruling on receipt of applications. The minimum initial investment in the fund is £250, or £1,000 to qualify for the 2% free allocation of units.

I want to invest £_____ in Save & Prosper Investment Trust Units.

I understand that the free allocation offer applies only to applications of £1,000 or more received by 20th January 1984. I enclose a cheque made payable to Save & Prosper Securities Ltd. I am over 18.

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*Delete if not applicable.

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. Reg. in Scotland No. 19439.

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During 1983, a return of 20% was commonplace. But what will 1984 be like? Will you be able to enjoy returns on this scale? We believe that knowing the markets inside out is vital for success. We also believe that knowing the market dealers is important. And that's why our advice counts. If you think you know all there is to know about investment, try taking a break from the festivities to answer these questions:-

- Which of these stockmarkets produced the greatest growth in 1983?
A. Japan
B. USA
C. UK
D. Australia
- Which of these countries has the largest increase in industrial production in the last 12 months?
A. Canada
B. USA
C. Japan
D. Australia
- If you'd invested in a unit trust investing in the USA on 1.1.83, how much would the weakness of sterling have been worth to you?
A. 1%
B. 2%
C. 11%
D. 5%
- In the past twelve months, one major economy has managed to keep its inflation rate below 1%. Which country is it?
A. Switzerland
B. West Germany
C. Japan
D. USA
- Which of these markets is our recommendation for 1984?
A. Japan
B. USA
C. Canada
D. Australia

To: Reed Stenhouse Gibbs, FREEPOST, London SW1W 0BR (no stamp required). Tel: 01-730 8221. Please contact me with details of your "Strategy For 1984" - without delay.

Name _____
Address _____
Country _____ Tel. No. _____
Present Income £ _____ Date of Birth _____ Tax Rate % _____
Lump sum amount available for investment £ _____
Amount available for regular savings £ _____ per year/month _____
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Savings

Banking on the girls of St Brandon's

St Brandon's, a private girls' school at Clevedon, Bristol, is the 250th school to set up its own bank under a Midland Bank scheme to attract new savers.

Midland has attracted more than 35,000 customers from its high street rivals with the scheme working on the principle that most account holders stay with the same bank throughout their lives.

The bank's initiative of taking its services into schools has exceeded its expectations. A Midland spokesman said: "It is impossible to say how many of those savers we would have got through the normal process of children having accounts opened for them by relatives and so on but clearly quite a fair proportion have been newly-won."

Midland considered the idea of a pilot scheme in a junior school, but is at present attacking the 11-plus market.

It launched the scheme last September, at the beginning of the autumn term, after three trials in secondary school in 1981.

These experiments - at schools at Mexborough, near Sheffield, Horsforth, Leeds, and Burton-on-Trent - showed that about 25 per cent of pupils were prepared to save with school banks.

A key factor was that school hours tended to clash with bank hours - except for Barclays branches, which have since started to open on Saturday morning - meaning that children could not gain access to their cash.

Banks have a somewhat forbidding image, compared

with the smiling faces shown by building societies on television.

Midland asked its local managers to invite schools to join the scheme and stress its benefits as an introduction to modern saving techniques, and an educational tool for older children studying economics.

Bank staff, chosen for their ability to communicate with young people, visit the school in the early stages with advice. Later, the scheme is taken over by parents or sixth-formers under the guidance of teachers.

New account holders receive geometry sets, and paying-in and withdrawal books which are designed like cheque books.

There are no minimum accounts. The Midland spokesman said: "We accept anything above nothing, although our early experience shows that the average balance is about £5."

Children, tend to save, if at all, for specific occasions, such as Christmas present-buying or for holiday spending cash.

The money is banked at the local branch. Midland said most money was processed through the school accounts, with only cheques being paid in by the school bankers. But it would accept liability for any cash that was stolen or lost.

It can afford to be magnanimous. By paying only the deposit account interest rate of 5.5 per cent and effectively getting other people to do its small-scale accounting work, it appears to have hit on a new account-attracting winner that would take huge advertising or promotion to replace

John Lawless

Property sale

How a vendor's survey could break those housing chains

The whole property sales cycle could be considerably reduced, unending chains eliminated, and consumers saved considerable sums of money if, as suggested in a recent letter to *The Times*, house sellers were to produce a survey of their property rather than the potential buyer.

The vendor suffers most through our system and logically is the one who should be enabled to put things right. When a property is offered for sale, it could be accompanied by an independent survey and valuation, local searches and a draft contract - all the elements necessary to enable a purchaser to reach a firm and irrevocable decision to proceed to completion.

The survey should be carried out by an independent and qualified surveyor, with a standard form containing reports on all major areas including electricity, drains, wood infestation and rot, and incorporating a valuation.

The necessary searches would reveal any proposed new roads, developments, or restriction likely to affect the property. Delays while the possibility of a new motorway were considered would be a thing of the past, as the information would be supplied with the draft contract.

In any case, on the legal front, life is much easier. The large majority of property owners now have a registered title - usually one that is absolute which is as good and certain as you can ask for. The days when solicitors had to plough through

A recent letter in *The Times*, suggesting that time and money could be saved if house sellers commissioned their own survey and made it available to potential buyers, provoked a flood of correspondence - mostly from surveyors. Robert Leach has been examining the pros and cons of operating such a scheme.

bundles of title deeds are now virtually over.

Once the property has been viewed, and firm interest expressed, the vendor would then, directly or through his own solicitor, make available the documents to supplement the original details.

The purchaser would then have all the information necessary to which to make a decision.

For the buyer this means a certain purchase, with no possibility of gazumping - a very distinct benefit. But it does mean that any property already owned would normally have to be subject of a similar agreement. If a mortgage was required, this too would need to be arranged.

For the vendor, there is again a certain sale, no breakdown because of a poor survey and, of course, no chance to withdraw through a change of heart or indeed to accept a higher, subsequent offer.

For estate agents it has to be good news with the prospect of an earlier and firm sale. Mr Ian Stewart, of Savills, agrees that it would certainly speed up the system. His firm has for some time been recommending preparation of draft contracts by the vendor's solicitors when the property is put on the market.

The building societies could have problems - they would need to make a quick decision, but they would have a professional survey and valuation readily available, immediately saving time, and there seems no reason why they should not already have agreed a mortgage advance in principle, subject to an acceptable property being offered.

Schemes like this are not new, and have been discussed in building society and surveying circles for years. Mr Peter Harvey, Abbey National spokesman, says that one of his society's main corporate objectives is to make it easier, cheaper and quicker for people to buy properties. But, as he points out, surveyors would inevitably be doing fewer surveys under the proposed scheme and would not just be answerable to one person.

Mr John Wilson, Barclays home loans chief, believes that when funds are available the need for speed of processing and approval is not and would not be a problem. But he, too, is concerned for the surveyor and his potential responsibility to three parties - vendor, purchaser and, of course, the lender.

Mr Peter Short, of the Royal Institute of Chartered Sur-

vveyors, has no fundamental objections to the proposed scheme but doubts whether the public requires it or would be well advised to adopt it.

He believes that most delays would not necessarily be overcome by adoption of the proposed ingredients, and points to the prospect of higher survey costs where at present the large majority of purchasers rely on a building society valuation alone.

But perhaps it is still appropriate to ask why a practical solution hasn't been found. Could it be the loss of income for the surveyors, who as a profession sometimes report on the same property two or three times for different would-be purchasers? Could it be that a separate report for the purchaser and the mortgagee is a more attractive prospect? Would the legal profession miss the fees they receive for deals that are not completed as well as for those that are? And might the building societies be reluctant to push for changes for fear of alienating professional bodies that are a traditional source of deposits from their wealthy clients?

No one is suggesting that to put together a vendor-led scheme is an easy matter and it might not suit everybody. But with the residential property market still akin to a jungle, the needs of the consumer are not uppermost in the minds of all the bodies that could oil the wheels. It may just take the forthcoming House Transfer Bill to force their hands.

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 5 1/2 per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. National Girobank 7 per cent. Lloyds extra interest 9 per cent. Monthly income account Natwest 9 1/2 per cent. Fixed term deposits £2,500-£25,000 - 1, 3 and 6 months 8 1/2 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

MONEY FUNDS
Fund Assets Income Monthly Inc. B of Scotland 6.85 9.00 01 638 6070
Britannia 6.80 9.16 01 628 8080
Midland 6.85 9.24 01 588 2777
Oppenheimer 6.89 9.22 01 499 6634
Sanco
High interest deposit account S & P call 6.72 8.7 01 236 3887
Current account 6.45 8.7 01 608 6666
Schroder 6.55 8.75 01 382 8000
Teller & Riley 6.77 8.86 01 236 0652
T & R 7 day 6.91 9.11 01 235 0652
Tynard 6.75 9.04 02 732 241
Tynard call 6.75 9.04 02 732 241
UOT 7 day 6.5 8.78 01 623 3020
Western Trust
1 month 6.66 9.01 07 52 261161

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts - interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account - 11 1/2 per cent without deduction of tax, 1 month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000.

National Savings Certificates 26th issue
Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8.26 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min investment £2,000 - max.

£200,000. Interest - 11 1/2 per cent
Fixed term, fixed rate investments. Interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year Neath 10 1/2 per cent. 2 years Neath 10 1/2 per cent. 3 years Hammersmith & Fulham 10 1/2 per cent for £50, 10 1/2 per cent for £100. 4-5 years Tameside 10 1/2. 7-8 years 11 per cent. 9-10 years Worthing 11 per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Loans Bureau (01-628 7855 after 3pm) see also on Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 7.25 per cent. Term shares - 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 1.75 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the Regular savings schemes.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £500 max £20,000. 11 1/2 per cent variable at six weeks notice. Credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during the first year.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. 2 years English Insurance 8.4 per cent. 3 years Imperial Life 9.3 per cent. 4 years American Life 9.0 per cent. 5 years British National 9.0 per cent.

Local authority yearling bonds 12-month fixed rate investments
Interest 9 1/2 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

November RPI: 341.9 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments. Interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year Neath 10 1/2 per cent. 2 years Neath 10 1/2 per cent. 3 years Hammersmith & Fulham 10 1/2 per cent for £50, 10 1/2 per cent for £100. 4-5 years Tameside 10 1/2. 7-8 years 11 per cent. 9-10 years Worthing 11 per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Loans Bureau (01-628 7855 after 3pm) see also on Prestel no 24808.

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November RPI: 341.9 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

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This coveted award proves that the average performance of all GT funds was superior to that of any other unit trust group in 1983.

It demonstrates consistently good performance right across the range of funds and is further proof of the success of GT's philosophy of producing steady results through concentration on main market funds and avoiding sector gimmicks.

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Our award from the Observer is only one confirmation of that fact.

Performance figures for the twelve months to 1st December, 1983, published

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But I nominate GT as the unit trust group of the year because of its strong performance and speed in adapting to the fact that investment today is global, not parochial.

GT Rules U.K., O.K.

Top of the trust tables for 1983

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Whenever the recipe, the GT chef certainly appears able to follow it. This is the second time the group has won our accolade.

Top performers

PAST YEAR PAST TWO YEARS

1. GT	1. Framlington
2. Grosvenor	2. Grosvenor
3. M&G	3. Henderson
4. S&P	4. Hill Samuel
5. Henderson	5. Nat West

in Money Management and Planned Savings show that GT's European Fund is not only top of its category, but outperformed all the UK's 600 unit trusts.

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To make sure our choice is right, we have investment teams on the spot in each of those markets to make the day-to-day decisions.

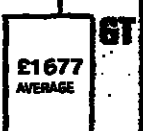
That means your money has the best possible opportunity to grow in the chosen market - US, UK, Europe or the Far East. But remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and you should look on your investment as a long term one.

Right now, we are confident that the outlook for the world's main capital markets is favourable. So make your choice from one of the four main market funds on offer here. Or, if you prefer, talk to your professional adviser.

Here are 4 good reasons why GT should always be among the leaders

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Proven to be the top performing fund in the twelve months to 1st December, 1983, this fund gives investors a well-spread portfolio in all the major continental markets. There is a base holding of core stocks. **£2110 (1 Year)**



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The aim of this fund is to achieve capital growth from a spread of investments in Japan with particular emphasis on growth companies. GT believes that Japan has one of the soundest economies in the world with well above average growth prospects. The £64 million fund is managed from our office in Hong Kong. **£23300**



Note: The performance figures shown in the charts above compare £1,000 invested in GT Funds with sector averages over the five year period to 1st November 1983 (European Fund over one year). The figures assume all net income reinvested and are on an offer to offer basis. Source: Planned Savings.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Trustees for all the Unit Trusts mentioned: Lloyds Bank Plc 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. The trusts are authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry as "wider range" investments under the Trustee Investment Act 1961.

The offer price of the units on 28th December 1983 was as follows:-
GT US & General £2.4p Gross yield 0.3
GT Japan & General £2.9p Gross yield 0.2
GT Capital (Accum.) 37p Gross yield 1.7
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FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Investment forecasts

For 1984 read Japan all the way

This time last year we asked some financial experts to give their views on 1983 - what opportunities or pitfalls did they foresee for investors? Although it has been a vintage year for virtually all world stock markets, our panel of professionals did not exactly give some first-class advice.

First prize must go to Mr Stuart Goldsmith, investment director of the Britannia Unit Trust Group, who recommended its Hong Kong Performance Fund. That turned out to be one of the year's worst performers. His other selections did better, though not spectacularly well. Investors will have seen gains of about a quarter in Britannia's American Smaller Companies Fund and Special Situation Trust. And his other selection, the Britannia World Technology Trust, had grown by 38 per cent over the year.

But Mr Goldsmith was not the only one of our experts to get his predictions wrong. Mr Richard Katz of Rothschilds pronounced himself "very bullish" about gold and this has been a tale of woe for most of the year. The price is now \$389 an ounce, compared with \$474 at the time he tipped it.

Mr Michael Hether of Abbey Life was clearly worried about 1983. He thought the period of real returns for investors would be over by now. People were advised, in his view, to switch to inflation-hedge investments like property (flat as a pancake all year) or index-linked gilts (a little flatter, but basically dull).

This year was definitely not the one to be holding hedge-type investments. No, 1983 was the time when an investor could buy virtually any unit trust and make a gain - get it really right and you could have doubled your money. It was also the year of real returns from fixed interest investments like building societies - basically an easy year in which to show a good profit.

So it is ironic that the experts were so dramatically off-beam. But building society chief Mr Roy Cox of the Alliance saved the day - his prediction did a bit better than the rest. He forecast a rise of 10 per cent in house prices - they appear to have risen by just a shade under that - but he was not hopeful about mortgage cuts. In fact, the rate jumped from 10 to 11.25 per cent during the year and the queues that Mr Cox saw in his crystal ball materialised.

So what is going to happen this time? Mr Chris Tracey, managing director of Save and Prosper Investment Management, had no hesitation in plumping for his group's Japan Smaller Companies Fund as his runaway selection for 1984.

"I still believe the yen is undervalued. We also feel that the recovery in Japanese corporate profits is coming later than in the US and the UK. We will see the recovery coming through in 1984. I like the smaller companies because it's new for Japan where the Ministry of Finance is now actively encouraging them."

Elsewhere, he thinks things are far less certain, particularly in the US, where he believes there could be further weakness on Wall Street. Like most of the other experts I talked to, he hedges all his predictions with the possibility of a wholesale Orwellian-style crash next year, caused by Third World debts.

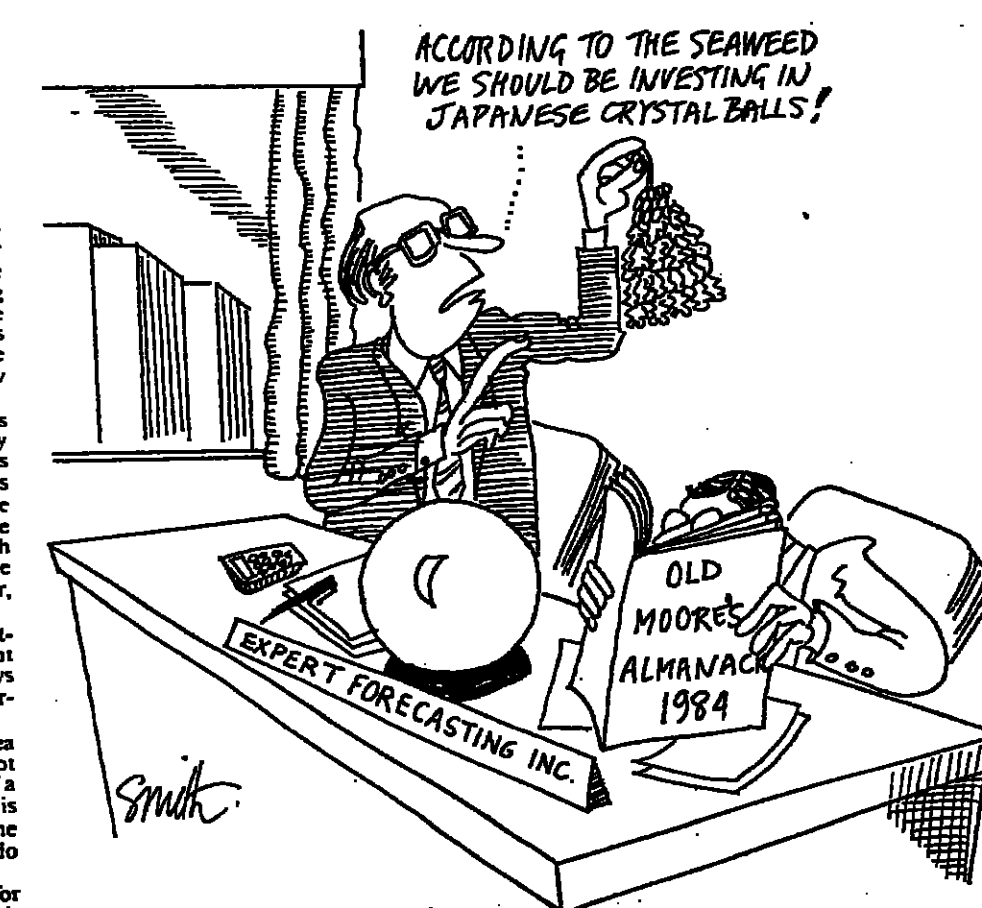
Mr Tony Mortimer, investment director of merchant bank, Kleinwort Benson, says there are really many imponderables for 1984.

"I think the technology area in the US is interesting, not withstanding the possibility of a weakening dollar. But the yen is a good currency to be in and the Japanese economy should do well next year."

"In the UK the outlook for sensible wage settlements is good. The problem is that all world stock markets are high at present. My policy is to buy individual stocks not sectors. I also feel that by the autumn of 1984, stock markets will have gone just about as far as they are going to go."

Mr Adrian Collins of Gartmoor recommends caution. "I can't see them making the same fabulous amount of profits that were made in 1983. I would be tempted to take some profits."

He likes Japan, but recommends Hongkong for gamblers. His choice for the year is Gartmoor's Global Strategy, which is an inter-



national growth fund, mainly invested at the moment in Japan and the US. Mr Malcolm Hughes, general manager of Nationwide Building Society, sees house prices rising quite sharply - by as much as 14 to 15 per cent.

"House prices follow average earnings and since average earnings are rising well above inflation, the upward trend in house prices will speed up. At the moment, we have strong demand for mortgages and I see no reduction in the mortgage rate for at least the first quarter of the year."

"We will find out about the new National Savings target in April, and that will give some indication on mortgage rate cuts. At the moment, National Savings is fiercely competitive so any reduction in the rate to savers would mean an immediate drying-up of our funds, as happened in early 1983."

Mr Sid Lipworth, of Hambro Life, thinks property may be showing some sign of firming up in 1984, but also picks Allied Japan and Allied American Special Situations. Japan is also a firm favourite with independent investment manager Mr Anthony Wieler, but he also likes the look of South East Asia, too.



The experts (from left) - Tracey: yen underrated; Hughes: housing top value; Collins: global strategy and Lipworth: Japan and US allied choices.

Entertainment Investors go for record profits

The glamour of the entertainment industry often attracts investment on the most spurious of grounds.

Most fund-raising schemes in the sector would not see daylight if they had to meet the criteria of usual City or banking requirements.

But the world of pop music is often able to generate funds on a basis where common sense is lost somewhere between the twinkle in a potential 'angel's' eyes and the signing of a cheque.

A lease and asset financing broker, Mr Cyril Gillis, found himself arranging the finance for recording studio and video facilities when he discovered the money-making potential of a successful pop group.

He manages an off-the-shelf company called Numberdown, an unfortunate name for a promoter attempting to get records up the charts and is successfully selling 100,000 £1-shares for an equity stake under the tax advantages of the Government's Business Expansion Scheme.

So far the wealthy patrons have been "mainly stockbrokers and farmers," said Mr Gillis.

Numberdown, just months old, has no assets other than its Surrey offices and a 10 per cent of gross contract with its first rock group, called England, which has just released its first single, *Victoriana*.

The group is in the process of making a double album. Counting studio time, 10-weeks in England's case, it will cost between £20,000 and £40,000 to get the project on tape.

When that is completed Mr Gillis hopes to have the band adopted by a major record company which would then release the records.

A successful group can gross between £14m and £15m over a five-year period, working on the assumption that two albums a year are successful and that there are enough singles-chart hits to maintain support.

But Numberdown is a make or break investment. As Mr Gillis admits, there may be no return on the project. England will not be the only band in which Numberdown invests and he hopes to involve the company in studios and record manufacturing.

Margaret Drummond Wayne Lintott

How to make a profit in 1984

The major equity markets have provided excellent returns to the discerning investor over the last two years. However, with markets at current high levels, profitable investments will be harder to identify in 1984. Uncertainty surrounding interest rates and currencies will undoubtedly complicate the issue. The recipe for success will be timing and active management - to make profits and protect them.

Menzies Mercantile specialise in helping you to make the most of your financial resources. We help you to define your objectives and devise an investment strategy accordingly. We continue to monitor your investments, advising when to consolidate profits or take advantage of new investment opportunities available. Maximising your profit whilst ensuring your long term security.

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INVESTORS NOTEBOOK

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS EVERY DAY

Savings Decision time for index-linked bonds

Holders of index-linked National Savings certificates, (formerly known as Granny Bonds) who had been hanging on until the end of October to qualify for the 2.4 per cent tax-free bonus, have now to make up their minds whether to stick it out or to take their cash and move elsewhere.

NSB has reinforced the waning attraction of "grannies", brought about

by lower inflation rates, by adding another 2.4 per cent for those holders who keep their bonds for a further year.

Compounded up, this gives slightly more than a 4.8 bonus for those who hold on for the full two years - on top of the index-linked increase, which is at present running at 4.8 per cent itself, but likely to move over 5 per cent per annum.

Non-taxpayers should

definitely make a move. The 11 per cent return on the NSB Investment Account is far better than anything which can be expected from index-linked savings certificates over the coming year. If income is not a priority, the new Deposit Bond from National Savings with a minimum investment of £500 offers an extra 0.5 per cent at 11.5 per cent but it is not so

flexible as NSB Investment Account.

Higher rate taxpayers should definitely stay put. Inflation is expected to run at around 6.5 to 7 per cent over the coming year which will give a return of around 9 to 9.5 per cent taking into account the 2.4 per cent bonus. This is tax-free and better than the after-tax return from any comparable investment.

A few words for those who didn't make 79.9%* over the last year with Oppenheimer's International Growth Trust:- Fill in the coupon.

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This outstanding performance has made our fund the top performing of all international funds for the past 12 months. As well as the number one international fund over a 2, and 3 year period.

In the Right Market at the Right Time.

In the opinion of many experts, world markets generally seem poised to move ahead in 1984. So now would seem an excellent time to consider investing in an international fund.

The big advantage of an international fund is that its managers can switch in and out of markets as conditions seem most favourable. This means investors can reap the rewards of being in the right markets at just the right time.

At Oppenheimer, we are highly experienced in this type of fund management. Since we have offices in London and New York, and managers with specialist knowledge of other markets.

Success breeds success.

In the U.S., our Target Fund was the top performing of all funds in both 1981 and 1982. And we currently have no less than three funds in the U.S. top fifty.

Small wonder then that our expertise has attracted more than 900,000 investors worldwide.

So why not join them. Send off the coupon today or telephone 01-236 3885.

*For 12 months to 1st December, 1983. Source: Planned Savings.

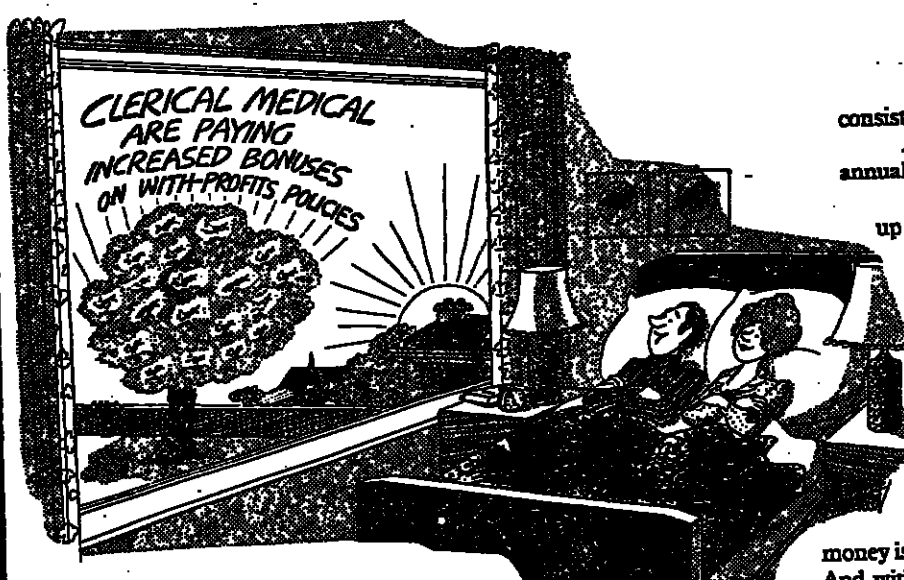
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Oppenheimer

Now, highest-ever bonus rates from Clerical Medical



Now that's what I call a damn chorus!

Thinking of starting a savings plan in 1984? Consider this.

We've just announced record bonus rates on our with-profits policies.

For the years 1981-1983 inclusive, bonus will be added on all ordinary with-profits policies, effected since 1946, at the rate of £49.00 per annum compound for every £1,000 of sum assured and attaching bonuses.

Policies effected before 1946 will also receive increased bonus additions.

Terminal bonus, which is payable when a policy becomes a claim because of death or maturity, is also now being added at an increased rate of 70% of the other bonuses to which a policy is entitled.

Good news for our existing policyholders, of course: the record bonuses will greatly increase the value of their policies.

A £20 a month policy, for example, started ten years ago would have built up into a handsome tax-free cash sum of £4,130 today, for an actual gross outlay of £2,400!

For most people income tax relief (now life assurance premium relief) would have reduced the gross outlay by at least 15%, providing a return equivalent to a net annual yield of 12.5% (worth 17.8% per annum to a basic rate taxpayer).

Good news for you, too.

Our record 1983 bonus rates are the latest in a long line of outstanding bonus results.

In fact, your actual payouts have been so good that we're

consistently in the 'top ten' performance tables. And, from now on, we'll be adding bonuses annually.

So, if you want a very secure way to build-up a tax-free sum, or are interested in saving money overall on your mortgage repayments, there couldn't be a better time to contact us.

Remember, too, we've just announced record bonuses on our Personal Pension plans as well.

Of course, future bonuses depend on future profits so that we can't guarantee bonus rates will be as high in the future.

But our record of giving value for money is excellent (just ask your insurance adviser). And, with inflation at lower levels, our policies could well be of even greater real value to you.

Why Clerical Medical?

Clerical Medical was founded in 1824. We're one of Britain's longest established, largest and most respected life offices.

And, as a mutual office, all our distributable profits go to with-profits policyholders.

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If you prefer, post the coupon below FREEPOST, phone 01-930 5474, or enquire via Prestel page 377930.

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FAMILY MONEY

Savings

Gateway to a Gold Star account

Imitation is supposed to be the sincerest form of flattery, but in the competitive world of building society investment accounts it sometimes causes a few ruffled feathers.

The Gateway, fifteenth largest society in the country, is launching a Gold Star account which pays 1 per cent above standard rate without conditions - no notice and no withdrawal penalty.

The minimum investment is £1,000; but accounts with more than £5,000 qualify for monthly interest payments, which lifts the net rate of interest from 8.25 to an effective 8.75 per cent. If the balance falls below £1,000, interest is paid at 7.25 per cent.

The Cheltenham and Gloucester, the twelfth biggest, believes this is a copy of Cheltenham's Gold Account. A spokesman said: "We don't take exception to it. But it is a straight crib. The terms are identical - even the name is a straight pinch."

Cheltenham Gold was extremely successful when it was launched in April 1981. So many savers opted for the bonus that the account was suspended six months later for two months.

Mr Alan North, Gateway's assistant general manager, said: "We feel that it is the sort of account that is right for Gateway."

Mortgages

Building societies plan 20% lending rise

Four of the top five building societies said yesterday that they expect to increase their lending by around 20 per cent in 1984, and in some cases much more.

If a rise of a fifth were repeated across the industry, as seems likely, total society lending in the coming year could top £23,000m for the first time.

WHAT THE SOCIETIES SAY

HALIFAX: Expects to increase its probable 1983 lending figure of £2.6 billion by more than 20 per cent.

ABBEY NATIONAL: Will lend £2.1 billion in 1983 and intends to lend £2.7 billion in 1984.

NATIONWIDE: Will maintain a high monthly lending level of between £130m and £140m.

LEEDS: Definitely going to increase lending by 20 per cent.

WOOLWICH: The 1984 target of £1.3 billion is 25 per cent up on 1983's £1,048m.

Even allowing for a probable increase in house prices of 10 per cent, the rise is still substantial. It compares with 119,000m lent this year and just £15,000m in 1982.

The number of loans advanced during the last two years have increased from 861,000 to about 950,000. And if the upper limit of lending potential is reached, the 1984 total should

easily top one million for the first time.

For home buyers, a fairly complex set of new rules applies. Although building societies generally - and there are about 200 around the country - are still reporting strong demand for loans, there are regional differences in waiting times.

Mr Peter Hemingway, Leeds chief general manager, said that queues vary from four to 12 weeks around his 400 branches - with potential borrowers in Scotland having to wait longer than those in the South of England.

The Leeds, however, has been lending slightly more than 50 per cent of its money to first-time buyers in the past year.

The Woolwich, on the other hand, with two thirds of its 380 branches south of Oxford, yesterday reported demand as strong as ever, but added: "Queues are virtually non-existent - down to about the four weeks it takes to clear up all the legal bits and pieces."

Brandishing what it sees as a trump card - held also by Nationwide among the top five - a flat 11½ per cent interest rate no matter how large the loan, the Woolwich was even tempted to suggest that active marketing of mortgages may return by late spring or the summer.

Not surprisingly, it is also suggesting that the main factor that new borrowers must



Rising demand: More home-lending should keep queues down in 1984.

consider in the coming year will be how much they pay for their new mortgages.

This certainly applies in Greater London. The average loan of one of its main competitors in that sector up to October was £25,546 even to first-time buyers - which would push the interest rate to 11½ per cent. A loan of £40,000 might cost more than 13 per cent.

A smaller society serving the same area has a differential that starts at £12,500, which would mean that at £25,000-plus (and perhaps even lower) the rate would be 12½ per cent.

A straw poll among senior managers in the top five shows that what will happen to interest rates in 1984 remains "anyone's guess" - with the high US interest rates still seen as a factor by many, but with the highly competitive National Savings rates for investments being watched very closely.

The societies themselves have come in for criticism for making their own investment inducements too attractive, but they are making them even more appealing.

They have recently had record inflows: worth £987m in

October and £870m in November, compared with £763m and £490m in November and December (traditionally a quiet month for savers, of course) last year.

Another complicating factor may be that the big banks will move back slightly into the mortgage market - although in nothing like the fashion in which they competed for home loans in 1982, when they took 36 per cent of the business.

On the other hand, the demand for money for council house purchases - which num-

bered about 80,000 in 1983 - is expected to level off. However, the increase in general economic activity is already being reflected in a push towards buying more expensive homes, even though the current high level of house-building may be pegged back a little in 1984.

Having virtually been trying to pull people off the streets to borrow in 1981 and in the first part of 1982, the societies saw November of the latter year produce a record in terms of new commitments, of £1,769m. March this year was a peak £1,905m, but November's was still £1,836m - with demand continuing to grow.

The substantial injection of new funds is undoubtedly a move to cut queues, without necessarily chopping rates, which some leading societies, nevertheless, would like to see fall, as soon as demand looks as though it may be satisfied. They insist that, even at 11½ per cent, their loans are not expensive.

But they have an ulterior motive: to reduce liquidity ratios, so that assets can earn more than they can when placed outside their "home" market. The seasonally-adjusted ratio - which measures liquid against total assets - stood at 18.8 per cent at the end of 1982.

However, with the way things are going, it could fall below its lowest-ever point (of 17.4 per cent) in 1984.

John Lawless

Tax shelters

New Year spree for workshops

An increasing number of people are setting out with New Year's resolutions - to buy a small workshop - the sort that qualifies for a 100 per cent capital allowance.

The industrial building allowance (IBA) which was introduced by the 1980 Finance Act, has created a thriving market for these tax shelters.

Now there is a list of suitable properties available to investors, accountants, and estate agents for a £10 fee. The IBA register gives outline details of the workshops; inquirers are given the name, address and telephone number of the developer or selling agent so they can negotiate directly.

The December list of 136 IBA workshops ranges from a £243,000 complex in Bedford, Kent, with two units of 1,800 sq ft and three units at 2,375 sq ft, to a workshop in Wincanton, Somerset, with two units of 600 sq ft, for £16,250.

The IBA register is published by Mercosk, Hove, Sussex.

Mr Brett Hoskins, chairman of Mercosk, said that the register was launched because the scramble for tax shelters as the financial year drew to a close meant that some investors had to settle for other schemes because they could not find the time to seek out a suitable workshop.

Expansion

Exotic Airleisure brings bounce to fringe market

One of the strangest beneficiaries of the Government's Business Expansion Scheme is about to make its share debut on one of the City's growing collection of fringe, over-the-counter markets.

Licensed dealers Hill Woolgar is launching Airleisure Products on its over-the-counter market after a successful placing among its 1,000 shareholders.

Whether Airleisure is the sort of company the Government had in mind for the scheme is perhaps a matter for conjecture. Nevertheless, Airleisure meets the scheme's requirements even if it is a colourful venture engaged in fields which must seem strange to many of the investors who brought at least partly for tax reasons, its shares.

The group, trading for less than a year, makes exotic products such as disco bouncers and breaker beds.

Breaker beds, are inflated dance floors with disco-style colouring and lighting. Aimed at clubs, community centres and hotels this creation is designed for aerobic exercises. A disco bouncer is a portable contraption on which youngsters combine dance with bouncing.

Investors who have acquired share through the Hill Woolgar placing at 58p each should qualify for the scheme's tax

benefits which could reduce the cost of a £10,000 investment to £4,000. But they must hang on to their shares for five years.

Airleisure is the creation of Mr Michael Cooper, aged 43, who used to run discos and nightclubs. He has a five-year service agreement at £27,500 a year and will collect 5 per cent commission when profits top £400,000. His wife Suzanne, the administration director, has a five year £15,000 a year service contract.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Chibank Savings	10½%
Consolidated Credit	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Interchange Bank rates.

* 7 day deposits on rates of under £10,000, 9½% - £10,000 up to £250,000, 9¼%, £250,000 and over, 7½%.

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I/We understand that the rate may vary. I/We would like the half-yearly interest:

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RUGBY UNION

Insult of old score added to their newly injured pride has Bristol bristling

By David Haas, Rugby Correspondent

Bristol, the John Player Cup holders, having enjoyed an indifferent start to the season, can this afternoon put an unbeaten month behind them as they face 1984. Standing in their way at the Memorial Ground are Llanelli, who are looking for a double after defeating Bristol 33-0 in October at Stradey Park.

There may be an element of injured pride working on Bristol's behalf. Forty-seven players will gather at Twickenham next Saturday for the England trial and only two of them, Barnes at stand-off half and Kibb at centre, are from Bristol. Kibb is a replacement, a status not accorded to Heston, the No 8, who returns against Llanelli after recovering from a shoulder injury in the victory over Leicester a fortnight ago.

Llanelli bring a reserve front row across the Severn Bridge, husbanding their resources for the meeting with Newport on Monday. They have rested Douglas today and give Griffiths, a Welsh Youth cap last season, a game at scrum half, but their back division includes four capped players in Givens, Morgan, Donovan and Pearce.

Fielding seriously weakened teams because of trial demands are Gloucester, Bath and Leicester, who have potentially demanding games today. Gloucester, beaten by Llanelli over Christmas, travel to Bridgend with Sargent, Blake and Orwin restored to their pack; Bath, who are at home to Northampton, restore Trevisks to the left wing and play

Redman, the England colt, at lock. Northampton will be without Caplan at full back and Worrall at scrum half, both are injured. With Field, their second team scrum half, playing for Midland Colts, they have recalled Page, the former England scrum half, who wears his 36 years lightly in the service of his club's third team.

There are two London derbies today: Harlequins at home to London Scottish and Richmond at home to Saracens. Richmond will be without Jameson, their South African scrum half, and Evans, their injured hooker, whose place goes to Roland, a debutant.

Midlands derby brings together Nottingham and Nuneaton and could ensure for Nottingham, the host club, a place in the top five of the merit table and automatic inclusion in next season's John Player Cup third round. Nottingham have beaten Moseley, Bedford and Rugby and drawn with Coventry.

Pontypool lock sent off

Pontypool's disciplinary record this season declined further yesterday when Kevin Moseley, their lock, was sent off during the 34-13 victory over Newport at the Welfare Ground. Moseley, aged 20, was dismissed after only six minutes by Derek Bevan, the Welsh referee whose handling of the game between the Midlands and the New Zealanders last month attracted considerable praise.

Moseley's offence was dangerous use of the boot following a lineout. In the same match Perkins, Pontypool's international lock, was returning after a month's suspension and a third forward, Steve Jones, has also been sent off this season. The win increases Pontypool's lead at the top of the Welsh merit table.

Gloucester have seven players in the trial, Bath four and Leicester six, one of whom, Woodward, may not be playing in the televised game at Old Deer Park against London Welsh. The England centre



Page turns over an old leaf today for Northampton

Romanian acceptance

According to a reliable source in Bucharest Romania have accepted England's invitation for a game at Twickenham on January 5, 1985 (Chris Thau writes). The letter of acceptance was sent several days ago but it has yet reached RFU's headquarters at Twickenham.

The enormous volume of mail handled by both Romanian and British post offices during this period of the year was bound to create delays. The Romanians have said that they cannot afford to reject England's invitation the last of the

four home unions to have decided to play against them. But I understood that they stressed that Romania would need four of five warm up games before the international. Their mutual reluctance to accept RFU's invitation was the result of adverse climatic conditions which forced the Romanians as well as many other Continental sides to split their domestic season into two halves. In fact there was no rugby game in Romania since late November when the country was covered in snow.

Chris Thau

YACHTING

Condor is winner after a protest

Hobart, (Reuter) - The British-owned yacht Condor was declared winner of the 1984 Sydney to Hobart race after the American yacht Nirvana was disqualified for crowding Condor near the finish. It was the first time in the race's 38-year history that the line honours winner has been disqualified.

A protest jury found that Nirvana failed to give Condor sufficient room as the two yachts swept toward the finish line. Condor ran around just as it was gaining on Nirvana, which sailed on to cross the line first.

Rob Ball, the Englishman who owns the Bermuda-registered Condor, said he was disappointed to win in such a manner but maintained that Nirvana deliberately forced his boat around.

"It is much better to decide things like this on the race course" Ball said. "Unfortunately at this level of racing - and it's shown in the America's Cup often - these things do happen."

Video shots from television network showed Condor sailing two yachts ahead of the 170-strong fleet at the end of the race.

Condor led for most of the 638-mile race but Nirvana snatched the lead in the Derwent River estuary when Condor caught a shift in breeze six miles from the finish.

According to the jury, Condor had safely established an overlap on Nirvana and was moving faster. But Ball's yacht struck the bottom and the crew had to use a pole to push the boat clear. There was also minor contact between the two yachts.

The overall winners on handicap were the 11.5m from Victoria, a South Wales. It was however an anxious wait by Panda and Indulgence, who finished at 6.16 and 6.56 in the morning, for Jade, who didn't cross the line until 12.11, 13th and 25th, which was sufficient to keep them two points ahead of Hong Kong.

The British performance was very disappointing. It seems that Jade, the smallest yacht of the three, lost ground on the first night out of Sydney, and was never able to make up the deficit.

Condor was the first of the three to finish. The second was Jade, followed by Panda. The third was Indulgence. The fourth was Hong Kong. The fifth was Jade. The sixth was Panda. The seventh was Indulgence. The eighth was Hong Kong. The ninth was Jade. The tenth was Panda. The eleventh was Indulgence. The twelfth was Hong Kong. The thirteenth was Jade. The fourteenth was Panda. The fifteenth was Indulgence. The sixteenth was Hong Kong. The seventeenth was Jade. The eighteenth was Panda. The nineteenth was Indulgence. The twentieth was Hong Kong. The twenty-first was Jade. The twenty-second was Panda. The twenty-third was Indulgence. The twenty-fourth was Hong Kong. The twenty-fifth was Jade. The twenty-sixth was Panda. The twenty-seventh was Indulgence. The twenty-eighth was Hong Kong. The twenty-ninth was Jade. The thirtieth was Panda. The thirty-first was Indulgence. The thirty-second was Hong Kong. The thirty-third was Jade. The thirty-fourth was Panda. 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RACING: BREGAWN MISSES MANDARIN CHASE TO WAIT FOR BETTER GOING

Observe to be highspot of Francombe show

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Observe should win the Toie Mandarin Steeplechase at Newbury today now that Michael Dickinson has decided not to run either Bregawn or Silver Buck. Observe will be wearing blinkers for the first time, but because both Fred Winter and John Francombe his trainer and jockey, feel that he is "pulling his leg" and not giving his all at Chertsey earlier this month, even though he won that day.

Observe has won three times, but his jockey, John Francombe, has been jumping the practice fences on the downs above Upper Lambourne and Winter is convinced that they will help him to concentrate and make life easier for Francombe.

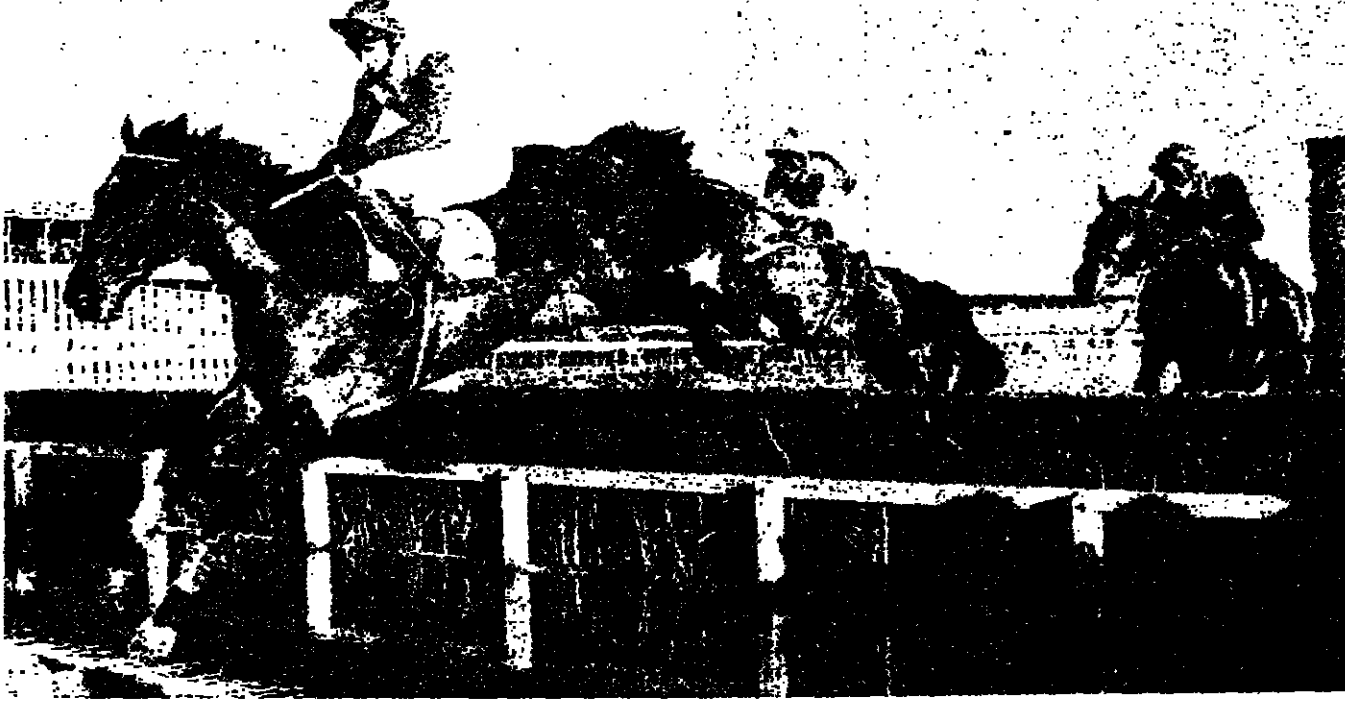
The distance of today's race will be new to him, but watching him win the Gallop rough steeplechase over three miles and 118 yards at Sandown Park last February I got the impression that another furlong and a half ought to be within his compass.

Approaching the only member of the field who has won over today's course and distance, but he is getting a bit long in the tooth and I doubt his coping with a horse of Observe's age and class, especially as he will be carrying more than his long handicap weight.

Bright Dream and Canford Ginger are also badly handicapped, but talking to John Francombe at Chertsey on Tuesday after Royal Ascot, I got the impression that he expects Bright Dream to run well because of the way that he has been going with Royal Judgment at home recently.

Now that Andrew Turnell's horses have hit form with a vengeance Bishop's Bow could be more of a threat to my selection than Bright Dream, who has always given me the impression that he is at his best when racing over two and a half miles.

Gratification (1.0) and Spanish Place (3.0) are other possible winners for Francombe, who is riding as well as at any time in his illustrious career. Gratification has won all his



Burnt Oak takes the water jump ahead of Roman Bisto and King Ba Ba on his way to victory at Newbury

over two miles this season, but has given the impression that he will do even better over further and this is precisely what will confront him in Chertsey Hurdle. He will certainly be at his best to cope with State Case, Catch Phrase and Anice.

Spanish Place, my selection for the Wickham Novices Hurdle, had some good performances on the Flat to his name, as indeed did Orange Reef. By all accounts both have shown a marked aptitude for jumping at home.

The field for the L'Oréal Handicap Hurdle includes three who have won it before: Jack O'Lantern, Mr. Moonraker and Great Light. The latter appears to have the best chance of the three now after that encouraging run at Kempton on Monday. However, I still feel tempted to take a chance with the Imperial Cup winner, Desert Hero, who beat Great Light by five lengths in that race at Sandown. Patrick's Fair was

even further behind in fourth place. After falling in two steeplechases this season when in a winning chance on each occasion Desert Hero could easily benefit from this switch back to hurdling. Noble Hero, his stable companion, has not run this season, so he could be the one to watch with Schwegges Gold Trophy in mind.

At Newbury yesterday 28 days of misery ended for David Nicholson when he watched Burnt Oak win the Weyhill Handicap Steeplechase. For that was how long it had been since he had his last win.

Until then everything had been going swimmingly for the Duke - as Nicholas is known affectionately in racing circles - with 18 winners in November. Nicholas was so worried about the drought that he had blood tests taken from a number of horses, but they revealed nothing.

What Burnt Oak showed was the sort of spring-heeled jumping and relentless gallop that will stand him in good stead at Liverpool one day. Whether that crack at the National comes next March or the year after remains to be decided.

Hewell Davies is ending the year in a blaze of glory. Yesterday he landed his third double this week by winning on com-mender and Alastor O Mavros. But what is one man's good luck is inevitably another's misfortune and in this instance Davies got the opportunity on Alastor O Mavros only because Richard Rowe broke a collar bone falling heavily from Ryedale in the Elcote Park Novices Steeplechase at the beginning of the year.

Rowe missed winning the Newtown Novices Hurdle as well on Stray Shot, on whom Graham Bradley proved a stylish substitute. Mark Harrington had an even nastier fall in the first race on Ballycoul and he was taken to hospital with a broken leg.

Chatterbox is Fred Winter's only runner at Worcester, and the five-year-old should be all the sharper for his recent outing when second to Zim's Son at Towcester.

Michael Dickinson's decision to withdraw Bregawn from Monday's Course Cup at Chertsey as well as from this afternoon's Mandarin Chase at Newbury has been greeted by the state of the going. "Bregawn is 100 per cent", the champion trainer said yesterday. "But don't forget he was placed up and all ready to go at Kempton last week. It's a pity that the fast ground, I will run him as soon as we have had some more rain."

Midland racers, in particular, will be saddened to hear that William "Rip" Bissill died at his home at Astock, in Nottingham, on Wednesday at the age of 75. One of the great characters of steeplechasing, Mr Bissill was, until recently, a regular at the Welsh National, in 1956. No man had a keener sense of fun or a greater zest for living and Rip Bissill will be sorely missed by his countless friends.

Boreen Prince ready to atone

Two of the better fancied Champion Hurdle runners, Boreen Prince and Fane Ranger, take over the reins at Newbury today. Boreen Prince, who was last seen in action at the Morgiana Hurdle at Punchestown this afternoon (Our Irish Correspondent writes). When they recently met at Naas in the event in which Boreen Prince beat the subsequent Kempton winner, Fane Ranger, Fane Ranger finished two places in front of Boreen Prince.

However, he subsequently made heavy weather of winning a conditions hurdle at Navan, and in the belief that Boreen Prince did not produce his true running last time, he is fancied to reverse the form. This he would certainly do if he ran as well as when chasing home Geyse Brief in the Championship Hurdle.

At Fairburyhouse yesterday, Waving Diamond, who was last seen in action at the Sun Alliance Chase, landed the odds in the Farewell Novice Chase. Waving Diamond was beaten by Blackthorn Prince at Lislick on Boxing Day.

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Catterick command for Hill's Guard

There is relatively moderate fare on offer at Catterick Bridge and Worcester this afternoon, but the plot of racing over Christmas, at Catterick the best bet should be Hill's Guard in the Dick Whittington Handicap Hurdle.

Andy Scott, the trainer, has not been nicknamed "The Wizard of Woodstock" for nothing. At Worcester on Tuesday, Mostynor was backed down to 100-30 before winning by five lengths, and at Newcastle, earlier in the month, Hill's Guard was the medium of a similarly successful gamble in another handicap. The five-year-old seems to be maintaining the improved form he showed when winning the races last spring and Hill's Guard should prove too good for Ballydunrow and Miss Love.

Two other likely winners are Mr Naught in the Towcester Handicap at Catterick, and Clutterbuck, who runs in the second division of the Midland Novices Hurdle at Worcester. Hill's Guard was already won chances this week with Ballydunrow and Ballygo and Mr Naught can carry on the good work by defying an 80 penalty for his recent defeat.

Clutterbuck is Fred Winter's only runner at Worcester, and the five-year-old should be all the sharper for his recent outing when second to Zim's Son at Towcester.

Michael Dickinson's decision to withdraw Bregawn from Monday's Course Cup at Chertsey as well as from this afternoon's Mandarin Chase at Newbury has been greeted by the state of the going. "Bregawn is 100 per cent", the champion trainer said yesterday. "But don't forget he was placed up and all ready to go at Kempton last week. It's a pity that the fast ground, I will run him as soon as we have had some more rain."

Midland racers, in particular, will be saddened to hear that William "Rip" Bissill died at his home at Astock, in Nottingham, on Wednesday at the age of 75. One of the great characters of steeplechasing, Mr Bissill was, until recently, a regular at the Welsh National, in 1956. No man had a keener sense of fun or a greater zest for living and Rip Bissill will be sorely missed by his countless friends.

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John Francombe has been named Amoco Hill jockey for the month of December. A record fourth monthly award for the reigning champion jump jockey.

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Time for England to revise their thinking

After 12 months of unrest brought about by a conflict of interests, the new year dawns with a feeling of uncertainty for British hockey. At the time, it will be made known whether Britain have been selected to take part in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles next July.

A British squad consisting of 13 players from England, two from Northern Ireland and one from Scotland, have been selected for this month after four months of training under their manager, Roger Self, to play in a ten-nations tournament. They wished fourth, winning only two matches out of six. Mr Self considers the 3-2 victory over Malaysia as a point in favour of Britain, but the failure to beat any of the top three sides (Australia, Pakistan and India) are deterring factors.

Although the Hockey Association, the controllers of the game in England, are reviewing the scope and purpose of the Great Britain Men's Hockey Board, the damage done in 1983 - the year of dissent - can hardly be repaired. Differences arose over the question of when and how the preparation of the British team for the Olympic Games should begin. The Hockey Association created an impasse by refusing to release the England players for training with the British squad until after European championships in Amsterdam at the end of August.

There followed a rift between the Hockey Association and the Southgate club who declined to release the England players for training weekends to concentrate on their own participation in the European club championship in The Hague.

So England carried on their preparation for Amsterdam without them. The effect was that England dropped from third to 10th place in Europe. Meanwhile Southgate also failed in their ambition, winning no more than a bronze medal at The Hague. Amsterdam, in fact, was not a happy hunting ground for teams from the British Isles, with Scotland finishing seventh, Ireland eighth and Wales twelfth.

When the British squad was eventually assembled the field of choice was restricted with the rejection of the entire Irish side, and the inclusion of Southgate's best players, Duffin, Craig, Battersby, Westcott and Kelly, with no international match experience for 1983, were included. Battersby proved the best of them. Someone should have told them that if they had any hope of going to Los Angeles they must first go to Amsterdam. Had they done so there would have been a stronger England side in Amsterdam and a more match worthy British team in Hongkong.

There is not much else to expect in 1984 for England and Scotland beyond the European Cup and the European championship in Edinburgh (February 10 to 12) and the junior European championship next September in Italy for which England and Scotland are qualified. It looks as if the entire machinery in England itself is in need of a complete overhaul. There have been no changes in office since England's defeat in January 1982 and seventh in the 10 nations tournament in Belgium in December 1982.

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Sunday

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boy turned slave in the 1930s
its (Channel 4, 10.45pm)

CHANNEL 4

0 **Meanwhile Gardens:** How three acres of derelict London wasteland became a thriving community park. Its future, though is now in doubt.

0 **Lempad of Bali:** The remarkable life, times and art of the 116-year-old Balinese artist Gusti Nyoman Lempad who won international acclaim.

0 **Film: Playtime (1967)** Jacques Tati, again playing Monsieur Hulot, chaotically at loose in a Paris seemingly filled with American tourists. It took three days to make (and, it must be admitted, a somewhat seems it takes that long to sit through). Inspired moments crop up occasionally, however.

15 **American Football: Highlights from "Wild Card" matches** in both the American and National Conference – the first round of the play-offs on the road at the "big one" at Tampa, Florida.

15 **The World At War:** The eleventh film of this 26-part series is called *Red Star* – the Soviet Union. The period: 1941-1943 – the years of the terrible battles of Leningrad, Moscow, Stalingrad and Kursk.

15 **Tell The Truth:** "Spot the imposter" panel game, played by Beverly Anderson, Lynda Bellingham, Nigel Rice and William Fushion. With Grams Garden in the MC's chair.

15 **Struggle:** The concluding episode of Peter Jenkins's political comedy series about a Left-dominated London borough council.

20 **First Love: Secrets.** A second chance to see Noella Smith's film about some boarding school girls who delve into the forbidden mysteries of Freemasonry and come up against consequences that they cannot cope with. Good performances by a clutch of young non-professionals, including Anna Campbell Jones, Lucy Goode and Daisy DeCoburn. Directed by Gavin Miller.

45 **Film: Roman Scandals (1933?)** Comedy musical, with Eddie Cantor as the Mid-West delivery boy who dreams he is back in *Andiant Roma* – as a slave. Among the *Goldwyn* Girls on display is a very young Lucille Ball. Cantor's songs include hits (of their time) like *Keep Young and Beautiful*. Directed by Frank Tuttle. Ends at 12.25.

rent 3.00 A
Easy.t 4.00

[illegible]

Song, 11.50pm Streets of San Francisco, 12.45am Postscript 12.51

INGLIA As London except:
11.50pm Nine to Five
12.05pm New beginning, followed by
Closdown.

TV As London except: 11.50pm
That's Hollywood. 12.20pm
Closdown.

TV WALES No variation.

ORKSHIRE As London except:
11.50pm Five
12.05pm That's Hollywood
12.25pm Closdown.

ANADA As London except:
11.50pm Streets of San
Francisco. 12.40pm Closdown.

Trafalgar Square awaits a safe new year



Workmen were completing preparations in Trafalgar Square, London, yesterday for what the police hope will be a less troubled New Year's Eve than last year, when two women were killed in the crush and 193 people injured (Stewart Tindler writes).

An electronic display board and barricaded fountains will greet revellers arriving tonight to usher in 1984. As Big Ben tolls midnight the board, under the control of the police, will wish the crowd a happy New Year. But for the rest of the night

it will provide information and instructions to prevent congestion. Green boardings to thwart midnight bathers were erected before Christmas. Extra police will be available to control the crowd, which has reached 100,000 in past years.

British Rail has laid on more late trains to stop last minute rush for home. The police are advising the public not to bring cars into central London, not to bring bags or large sums of money and not to drink too much. (Photograph: Barry Beattie).

Letter from Moscow

Musical revolution from the Russian Jazzmen

A cold December Moscow day, with snow and sleet drifting across the grey city. In a bare and chilly suburban cinema, Muscovites are shown to their seats by dumpy ladies in woollen hats. The lights go down and first comes a newsworld in 1950s socialist realist style, about a steel foundry and chicken farming.

And then suddenly, the screen explodes with colour, exuberance - and music. *Jazzmen* (in Russian *My iz Dehazza*, or "We are from Jazz"), is the exhilarating, lovingly-filmed story of the first jazzband in Russia, formed on Odessa, on the Black Sea, in the 1920s.

Partly based on the lives of Russian jazz pioneers (some of whom lived to see jazz flourish, be suppressed and revive), the film sweeps the viewer along on an irresistible stream of music and fun.

The young hero - played with engaging impudence by Igor Sklyar - is first seen trying out piano rags on an examination panel at the music institute where he is a student. They accuse him of being an "agent of imperialism". Undaunted, he teams up with a pair of itinerant musicians (a kind of Russian Laurel and Hardy act) and a seedy saxophonist they meet in jail after a riotous party.

Shakhnazarov, is shot through with wit and enthusiasm and Moscow audiences find the band's antics hilarious as they try to prove that jazz is not "bourgeois" art-form but "revolutionary" and therefore acceptable in a proletarian culture.

The real history of the jazz pioneers was not in the least funny, since the accusations of "imperialism" which sound so preposterous today were used to persecute musicians and artists in the terrible days of the Stalin terror (none of which is even hinted at in the version of *Jazzmen* passed by the censor).

But the film has seized the Russian imagination because it harks back to a "golden age," the 1920s, when there was colour and joy. For similar reasons, the Anglo-Russian *Anna Pavlova* is proving a popular success. The film, directed by the Moldavian director Emil Lotianov, depicts the life of the great ballerina from her first steps at the imperial ballet school in St Petersburg to her death in Europe on one of her many strenuous tours.

Soviet critics have panned the film as "superficial" and "travesty," pointing out (correctly) that the star of the film, Galina Belyaeva, is too lightweight and inexperienced to play the demanding role of Pavlova. *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said that Miss Belyaeva - who happens to be the director's wife - gave a rosy and romantic portrayal of Pavlova, "devoid of spiritual content or even interest".

What has really upset officials, however, is that in *Pavlova* the Russian revolution of 1905 and 1917 are seen as marginal. While imperial Russia appears sparklingly idyllic, the sun always shines in St Petersburg, a city filled with gaiety and plenty. The revolution only intrudes when Pavlova's carriage is held up by a bloodily put-down demonstration on the way to the theatre. At two and a half hours the film is an hour too long and some of the actors - including James Fox, who plays Anna's lover and manager - look distinctly uncomfortable. The exception is Bruce Forsyth who gives a splendid comic performance and a few funnier dubbed into Russian.

Most of the ideas piled up by the British side of the production team seem to have been jettisoned in favour of an extravagant and unconvincing vehicle for Miss Belyaeva. Diaghilev and Nijinsky merely come across as hysterical.

But for Russians, this is beside the point, just as it is for *Jazzmen* glosses over Stalinism is forgivable. Like *Jazzmen*, *Pavlova* fills the screen with colour and excitement, conjuring up a Russia peopled by outstanding individuals against the blackcloth of a spontaneous, sparkling Russia long vanished.

Small wonder that Muscovites are queuing up to see both films in preference to standard Soviet cinema offerings such as *Hot Summer in Kabul*, which depicts a positive Soviet hero giving selfless fraternal aid to the Afghan people in their struggle against world imperialism.

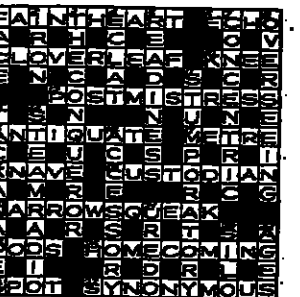
Richard Owen

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution of Puzzle No 16,318



Solution of Puzzle No 16,322



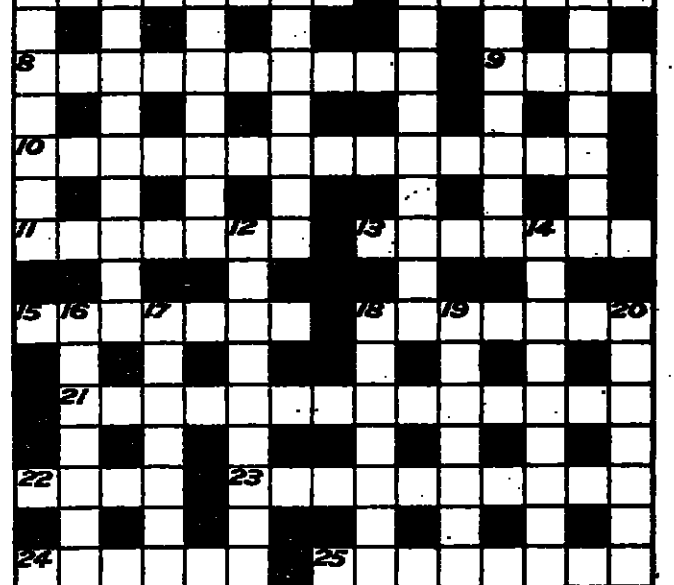
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,323

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Collyer Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solutions will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mr. E. A. Side, 9 Ayote Close, Gloucester, GL4 9QL; Mr. Julian Leveson, 36 West Side, Hendon, London, NW4 4XB; Miss E. M. Reader, 8 Middlepark Drive, South Cave, N. Humberside, HU15 2AT.

Name: _____

Address: _____



ACROSS

- 1 Preserve ship for defence of Jersey and Guernsey (4-4).
- 5 Craft of one making effort to draw? (6).
- 8 Low ball on boundary may come from a small arm (3-7).
- 9 Captain has backing of none of the crew (4).
- 10 Fellow fighting - like Lion and Unicorn? (8-5-4).
- 11 Understatement from T. S. Eliot, oddly (7).
- 12 Second discussion also careful follower of game (7).
- 15 Is it a very different sort? (7).
- 18 Main course (3-4).
- 21 No togetherness on the boards on this play (8,6).
- 22 Constellation, we hear, identified by Romans as planet (4).
- 29 Act with editor, right to alter this column (5,5).
- 24 House of Lords so to speak (6).
- 25 Swagging by, a satyr at heart (8).

DOWN

- 1 New US claim in South Pacific, say (7).
- 2 It shows fair's fair, so to speak (9).
- 3 From memory, near centre (2,5).
- 4 One of the partners of majority shareholder (7).
- 5 Glasses held some distance from eyes (9).
- 6 C. viare wasted on this officer? (7).
- 7 Many, in a sense, arranged like this (2,5).
- 12 Consider what the host should do (9).
- 14 Jowett is well aware of all this (9).
- 16 Country, alas, not in antipodes (7).
- 17 One takes pawn 7 for French stalemate (7).
- 19 This constable may be opposed to (6,7).
- 19 Athletic women - Brazilian runner second (7).
- 20 Level of the French sergeant? Hardy fellow (7).

Today's events

The Second Bombing, by Mulheim-Freibelt, Fruitmarket Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

Sculpture's Dance, Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Southampton; Sat 10 to 4 (ends today).

Fishing Snacks, a Kent County Museum Service travelling exhibition, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Sat 9.30 to 5 (ends today).

Captains of Commerce, New Irish Ceramic, Toon Carr, retrospective; Aspects of Africa: Fifty Years of Civil Engineering in Northern Ireland, all exhibitions at Ulster Museum, N. Botanic Gardens, Belfast; Sat 1 to 5 (all end today).

The Colman Collection of Silver Mustard Pots, Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, Bath; (ends today).

Landscapes by Ray Howard-Jones, Carmarthen Museum, Abergwili, Wales; Mon to Sat 10.40 to 4.30 (ends today).

Exhibitions in progress

That's Shell, That Is - exhibition of advertising material; Aberdeen Art Galleries, School Hill, Aberdeen; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 7).

Textile Designs and Drawings by Janet Hunter, Atkinson Gallery, Lord Street, Southport; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Thurs and Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (ends Jan 14).

Christmas exhibition of paintings by Falmouth Schoolchildren, Falmouth Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, Falmouth, Cornwall; Mon to Fri 10 to 1 and 2 to 4.30, closed Sat and Sun and until Mon (ends Jan 6).

Exhibition of Alternative Technology, Dorset County Museum, High Street West, Dorchester, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 28).

Tomorrow

March and waltz into 1984 with the Bournemouth Sinfonietta and Woodfalls Band, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, 3, Vienna, concert by BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, St. David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

General

Antiques Fair, Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare, 10.30 to 4.30.

Carol Services

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, St. Ann's Church, Manchester, 6.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 28).

In the garden

Check any fruits, vegetables, bulbs, corns or tubers in store and remove any showing signs of rot. If dahlia tubers show signs of rot, remove them from the water and store indoors for 24 hours. Check that recent rains have not loosened the soil round young trees or shrubs. If so, re-secure them by putting them in a bucket of tepid water indoors for 24 hours. Check that recent rains have not loosened the soil round young trees or shrubs. If so, re-secure them by putting them in a bucket of tepid water indoors for 24 hours.

If you have a pool with fish, float a rubber ball or a piece of wood on the surface. If the pool freezes, pour boiling water over the ball or wood. Then siphon or bale out water to leave a gap of an inch or so between the ice and the water and lay a sack over the hole. If this is not done the water will freeze over again immediately. Small floating electrical pool heaters are available which will keep a small area free from ice to allow fish to breathe.

The papers

The Daily Express quotes the Prime Minister, that Britain's revival is only beginning. "We're a country of the future. It says that Britain entered the year in far better shape than economic forecasters prophesied twelve months ago. Inflation has been kept at a low level, though only zero inflation would be wholly acceptable. The economy is beginning to pick up. Britain's growth rate is well above average. "We are among the leaders in the West's recovery", it argues, but says that Mrs Thatcher and her ministers cannot do this alone. "Employers must be realistic. Above all, unions must be realistic. But the paper says that to help the process towards prosperity, the Government must remove artificial restraints on the jobs market; cut state spending; reduce taxes and leave more money to firms and individuals.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.68	1.58
Austria Sch	29.00	27.40
Belgium Fr	84.50	80.50
Canada \$	1.56	1.47
Denmark Kr	14.80	14.10
Finland Mk	8.74	8.34
France Fr	12.40	11.90
Germany DM	6.98	6.58
Greece Dr	169.00	155.00
Hong Kong \$	11.50	10.90
Ireland Pt	1.318	1.269
Italy Lira	236.00	236.00
Japan Yen	333.00	333.00
Netherlands Gld	4.60	4.37
Norway Kr	11.60	11.00
Portugal Esc	199.00	188.00
South Africa Rd	1.22	1.19
Spain Ptas	235.00	225.00
Sweden Kr	12.06	11.46
Switzerland Fr	3.28	3.11
USA \$	1.49	1.44
Yugoslavia Dnr	222.00	208.00

Rates for cross denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 341.9. London: The FT index closed up 3.2 at 775.7.

Roads

London and South-East: West-bound carriageway of North Circular Road reduced to one lane at junction with Chiswick Green Road, from Tam. One lane closed in Wignmore Street, Marylebone, A249; Automatic signals on Maidstone/Stirlingbourne road, no diversion.

Midlands: Lane closures on A14 Huntingdon by-pass. Traffic signals at A46 Belper, Derbyshire, A61; Traffic signals controlling traffic at Clay Cross, Derbyshire.

Wales and West: A417: Delays, diversions in St Oswalds Road (old A40), Gloucester. A483: Temporary lights and lane delays in Wm Street, Ammanford. A35: Single-lane traffic controlled by temporary signals of Axminster-Honiton road between Kilmington-Leighwood, Devon.

North: A575: Egerton Street in Farnworth closed at Junction with Gladstone Road, diversions. A6118: Roadworks alongside existing carriageway on Leeds Southern ring road; delays. A6: Sewer cleaning work along south-bound carriageway of Stockport Road, Greater Manchester, between 08.00 and 15.30 hours.

Scotland: A85: Single-lane traffic controlled by lights, Invergowrie. A86: Intermittent traffic control in Drip Road at Lauramoorcroft, Stirling. A9: Intermittent traffic control in Laureway Head Road, Stirling. A82: Single-lane traffic controlled by lights in Inverness-shire.

Information supplied by AA.

Anniversaries

Births: Charles Edward Stuart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie", the Young Pretender, Rome, 1720; Giovanni Pascoli, poet, San Mauro di Romagna, 1855; Henri Matisse, painter, Le Cateau, Picardy, France, 1869. Deaths: Jehu Flanneghan, first Astronomer Royal, Greenwich, 1719; Gustave Courbet, painter, La Tour-de-Peilz, Switzerland, 1877.

TOMORROW

Births: Edmund Burke (new style Jan 12), Dublin, 1729; Maria Edgeworth, writer, Blackcourt, County Dub., 1767; Sir James Frazer, anthropologist, Glasgow, 1854; Henry Handel Richardson (Ethel E. L. Richards), novelist, author of the trilogy, *The Fortunes of Richard Muldron*, Melbourne, 1870; E. M. Forster, London, 1879. Deaths: William Wycherley, dramatist, London, 1716; Johannes Christian Bach, youngest son of Johann Sebastian, London, 1782; Sir Edward Lutyens, architect, London, 1944. The Times, under the title of *The Daily Universal Register* was founded 1725; the change of title was made on January 1, 1788. Britain entered the EEC, 1973.

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Weather

London, SE, central S, E, SW England, East Angles, E, W Midlands, Channel Islands, S, W, Dry, bright or sunny intervals; wind SW moderate; max temp 10-12°C (50-54°F).

N. Wales, NW, central N England: Mostly dry, rather cloudy; wind SW fresh or strong; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Look for showers in many areas but mainly dry in S. England. SE, central S, E, SW England, East Angles, E, W Midlands, Channel Islands, S, W, Dry, bright or sunny intervals; wind SW moderate; max temp 10-12°C (50-54°F).

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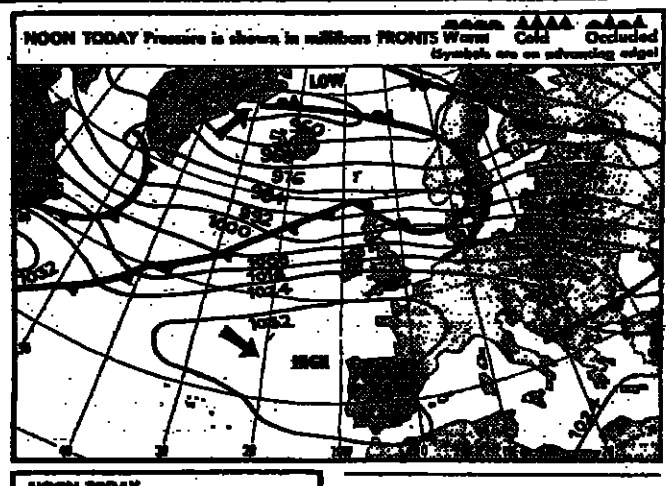
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Yesterday			
Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Belfast	11	SW	100
London	10	SW	100
Manchester	10	SW	100
Cardiff	10	SW	100
Edinburgh	10	SW	100
Glasgow	10	SW	100

Highest and lowest			
Location	High	Low	Wind
Belfast	11	7	SW
London	10	7	SW
Manchester	10	7	SW
Cardiff	10	7	SW
Edinburgh	10	7	SW
Glasgow	10	7	SW

London			
Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humidity
10	SW	100	100

Lighting-up time			
Location	Start	End	Wind
Belfast	11.30	11.45	SW
London	11.30	11.45	SW
Manchester	11.30	11.45	SW
Cardiff	11.30	11.45	SW
Edinburgh	11.30	11.45	SW
Glasgow	11.30	11.45	SW

Around Britain			
Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Belfast	11	SW	100
London	10	SW	100
Manchester	10	SW	100
Cardiff	10	SW	100
Edinburgh	10	SW	100
Glasgow	10	SW	100

Tomorrow			
Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Belfast	11	SW	100
London	10	SW	100
Manchester	10	SW	100
Cardiff	10	SW	100
Edinburgh	10	SW	100
Glasgow	10	SW	100

Aboard			
Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Belfast	11	SW	100
London	10	SW	100
Manchester	10	SW	100
Cardiff	10	SW	100
Edinburgh	10	SW	100
Glasgow	10	SW	100

Aboard			
Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Belfast	11	SW	100
London	10	SW	100
Manchester	10	SW	100
Cardiff	10	SW	100
Edinburgh	10	SW	100
Glasgow	10	SW	100

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